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UNIPAGE



AND YOU ARE...?

Jack Jensen—Coin and Stamp Collector/Seller
West Edmonton Coin & Stamp

When did you start collecting coins?
I started collecting coins when I was eight years old. My dad gave me some stamps, and I didn't like them, so I traded them in for coins at a store in Langley, BC. I eventually started working there on weekends. At around 15 I started more full time, after school and on the weekends. I also worked for another store for around two years. By 20 I was here in Edmonton at the Kingsway store. I was running it, and I basically told the owners to sell me a store or I'd quit. They sold me the West Edmonton Mall store in early 1996/97.

What drove you to start collecting coins?
I was watching my father one night when he was talking with his buddies. His friend threw me a dime and said "Here, go collect coins." It was a 1969 dime which is totally worthless, but I still have it because of its sentimental value.

Has coin collecting become more or less popular in the time you've done this?
There's been a resurgence lately here. It's because coins are more varied than they would have been, say, five years ago. They're painting images on coins and varying the art.

Do you have any suggestions for people thinking about starting a collection?
Start up with reference material. It's the most boring thing, but it gives you background for the future. It stops people from ripping you off. Make sure if you have any you keep them protected, as of course when they get damaged, their worth goes down.

What about Canadian currency, anything we should look for?
A couple of the valuable ones are the 1921 five cent and 50 cent pieces. The five cent is worth at least

\$5,000 depending on the condition, the 50 cent piece is worth \$40-50,000. Things a person can find in their wallet though, the 1991 quarter is worth about \$15. They only made 500k that year when they normally make close to 100 million coins on a normal production year. It's just a little rarer. There is also the 2000 "no p" nickel, it's worth about 2 dollars (there is no letter "p" under the queen). Do you check for rare coins in the cash you bring in from your sales?

I don't anymore. I'm really horrible that way. I don't check, but I can tell if it's silver or not just by the way it sounds when it lands in the till. I've been in the business a long time.

JEFFREY GREENIAUS

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magazine

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cjsr PROGRAM SCHEDULE
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8AM BBC WORLD SERVICE BBC World Service updates weekdays at 8am, 9am, noon, and 7pm, on weekends at 2pm.					6AM LIMEY GONG SHOW	6AM GET YOUR JAMMIES ON Mark
7AM YOUR MONDAY MORNING WAKE-UP CALL Jessica	7AM MAKIN' WHOOPEE Jon & Chad	7AM CLOCKWORK ORANGE JUICE Moose Brothers	7AM 22 & 50 SONGS Melanie	7AM CRYSTALIZATION Crystal	7AM ECLECTIC tba	8AM VOICE OF ERITREA
9AM MUSICAL TAPAS Kristina	9AM THE FOUR DIRECTIONS Tina	9AM PRAIRIE GAUCHO Idris	9AM ROVING ROUTES Yovella	9AM MAGPIE MUSIC Shawna	9AM MUSICA NOVA Robin	9AM JAZZOLGY Steve
11AM THE CUTENESS QUOTIENT David	11AM GET SOME WEST Babe Lloyd	11AM THE IPSO FACTORY Buster Friendly	11AM WRITERS REVISED Canadian Author Interviews 12PM MAKING CONTACT Progressive Lectures	11AM MATH ROCKS Jill	11AM ALTERNATIVE RADIO Progressive Lectures	11AM RADIO KATHMANDU: A SUNDAY BRUNCH IN NEPAL
1PM THE RHYTHM METHOD Dwayne	1PM HOT SOUP Heather F	1PM THE BARCLAY HOUR Sheri Barclay	1PM YOU'RE SOAKING IN IT! djwetspot	1PM THE SYSTEM IS DOWN DJ Licious	1PM LA PETITE MORTE Nevine	1PM BEFORE THE DELUGE Sandy & Richard
3PM RANSOM RADIO Craig D	3PM BACK POCKET SONG BOOK Franny & Laura	3PM THE '68 COMEBACK SPECIAL Tom & Craig	3PM 20th CENTURY CHARLES DICKENS EXPERIENCE Smilin' Jay	3PM HIT AND RUN RADIO Jay Hannley	3PM 25 TO LIFE Andy & Aaron	3PM DOMESTIC COMEDY Rachette
5PM DEMOCRACY NOW! Alternative News	5PM TERRA INFORMA Local Environmental News	5PM RADIO OUTPOST Engaged Travel	5PM YOUTH MENACE Youth Justice	5PM MOVING RADIO Film & Video	4PM CATCH THE BEAT Cam	4PM SIN FRONTERAS Sergio
6PM BORROWED TUNES Joel	6PM THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES AND OTHER AVANTE GARDE JUNK Post Proto Pseudo Boy	6PM THE TERRORDOME: The Alt-World Afrika News Service	6PM GAYWIRE Radio that Recruits	6PM LIZA'S PILLS Heather	6PM BPM David Stone	6PM POLSKIE RADIO Bogdan
7PM ONE HOUR TO MADNESS & JOY Tony	7PM AUDIOPHILIA MEMORABILIA Julie	7PM CALLING ALL BLUES Bruce & Grant Stovel	7PM PRAIRIE PICKIN' Doug & Rob	7PM SOUNDS UKRAINIAN Orest & Lada	7:30PM ELEKTRIK SEX TELEFON Eddie Lunchpail	7:30PM ETHIOPIAN BISERAT
8PM SOUL SHAKEDOWN PARTY Mick Sleeper	8PM INDUSTRIAL ETC... The Shadow	8PM THE SOUNDS OF FOLKWAYS Aaron L	8PM ASIKO PHANTOM PYRAMID Minister Faust & Bongbiemi	8PM FOURRE-TOUT	8PM HOUSE UNDERGROUND FM DJ Xu	8PM PULSE FM MC Deadly & Pale Force
10PM FLYING SAUCER ROCK & ROLL Dan Electreau	10PM YOUR WEEKLY AA MEETING Adam & Aaron	10PM THE SHOE BOX Brian & Pete	10PM THE EROTIC DANCER'S GUIDE TO FINE MUSIC Al Burant	10PM YOUR FRIDAY NIGHT COFFEE Mumps	10PM FRESH TRACKS Mother Peace	10PM CLOCKS & CLOUDS Chris & John
11PM WORKIN' ON LEAVIN' THE LIVIN' Kent	11PM IRE IDIOM DJ Glock-in-schpiel & Talkee MCTalkersingh	11PM KAMIKAZE COMEDY Lars & Powerman	11PM LIQUID CHATTER The Mikes & Carol	11PM RADIATION RULING THE NATION Eamon & Matt	11PM URBAN HANG SUITE Arlo Maverick	11PM THE SOUND OF MY OWN VOICE D. Jeffery Buchanan
12AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	12AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	12AM ELECTROPROLAPSE DJ Kuch	12AM NIGHTCRAWLER PRESENTS DJ Nightcrawler and guests	12AM ALTERED STATES The Professor & The Juggernaut	12AM EVIL PETTING ZOO DXL & Thero	12AM BBC World Service New Show TBA
3AM BBC World Service	3AM BBC World Service	3AM BBC World Service	3AM BBC World Service	3AM LIMEY GONG SHOW Limey	3AM BBC World Service	3AM BBC World Service

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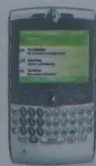
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FRIDAY, DEC 1 Revellers brave the cold as outgoing Premier Ralph Klein switches on the legislature's Christmas lights display.

WELL, I NEVER!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR FAIR AND FRIENDLY TOWN? A windown of recent developments from the snobby side of the tracks.

Mayor Mandel's plan to build housing for first-time homeowners on city-owned land has run into a storm of petty indignation from long-time residents.

"We have a right to live in a community of not first-time homeowners," Buylea Heights resident Dan Check was quoted as saying in the *Journal* last week, demonstrating a shocking sense of entitlement—and a profound ignorance as to what constitutes a right, rather than a privilege.

Mr. Check, you have a right to free speech. You have a right not to be arbitrarily imprisoned, a right to peaceful assembly, to freedom of thought. You don't have a right to sequester yourself in a wealthy, classist enclave, safely distant from the barbarians at the gates (in this case, middle-class barbarians with young children and a family income of at least \$60,000 a year, which is the city's prerequisite for access to the new housing).

What else... well, the city's Habitat for Humanity projects are consistently being opposed by "concerned" residents, folks in opposition are opposing new highrises in their area, and the Human Youth Society, a counselling and arts centre for troubled youth, is being threatened with eviction from its Queen Mary Park location because some of its neighbours are complaining that it violates zoning bylaws (translation: get those noisy kids out of our neighbourhood).

To hear nouveaux-riche Edmontonians tell it, their property values are more important than their fellow citizens. What are we turning into? Calgary?

MEET THE NEW BOSS

THIS PAST MONDAY, NEWLY CHOSEN CONSERVATIVE LEADER Ed Stelmach turned his back on the environmental lobby almost completely when he insisted he had no intention of putting the slow-down on oilsands growth. "There's no such thing as touching the brake," he said. "The economy, growth that will sort itself out."

Hey Ed, remember the Great Depression thing, way back in the olden days? That's what it looks like when unfettered capitalism "sorts itself out."

Of course, this comes as Stéphane Dion promises he will slow down oilsands development to help achieve Kyoto targets. Now wait for every Lib-baiting Tory in the province to start invoking the memory of Pierre Trudeau's hated National Energy Program like a brain-dead mantra.

Steady Eddie also referred to Alberta as a "nation within a nation," just like Quebec. No question that Alberta is unique, but all the provinces are, to varying degrees. To argue that Alberta has a culture and history as distinct and singular within Canada as Quebec's is crazy-talk.

WHERE NO LOGO HAS GONE BEFORE

OF ALL THE CRASS POLITICKING THAT WENT ON LAST WEEKEND during the PC and Liberal leadership races, the Young Liberals of Canada pushed beyond acceptable limits of political cheese. During the leadership festivities the feisty Grits distributed black and red thongs that said, "I'm a Liberal" and red con-

doms with the party logo. Apparently, no human appendage is sacred. While we applaud their effort to protect their fellow policy wonks as the convention got down and dirty, we must ask: does advertising have a place on the contraceptives of the nation?



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WHY DOES HE WANT TO BE THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER... TO OVERRIDE THE CHARTER?"

Newly elected federal Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, on Stephen Harper's re-opening the same-sex marriage debate in contravention of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Dirty old town

New bylaw could weaken environmental restrictions

DESPITE THE RAPIDLY RISING VALUE of land in Edmonton, there are many vacant lots scattered across the city that developers won't touch.

Gas leaks and other contaminants left by previous tenants make even the most promising locations potential money pits. The most obvious example is the site on Whyte Avenue between 104 and 105 streets, previously occupied by a service station, that has lain vacant for years despite being smack-dab in the centre of Edmonton's hottest retail strip.

Regardless of the potential health risks, neither the city nor Capital Health can say how many sites or

how much land is contaminated within the city's boundaries. But in an effort to encourage re-development on these vacant sites, city council is considering a new zoning by-law that would reduce how much developers have to pay to clean up such sites, and that would put the public's health at risk, says Charles Richmond, the Sierra Club's urban issues co-ordinator.

Instead of requiring developers to clean up the area to the highest standards, the city would create a kind of contract with the developer for what can be built on the site and what environmental precautions

need to be taken. Only commercial uses such as shops, restaurants and offices would be allowed. Homes, parks and daycares would be prohibited.

THE RESPONSIBILITY SHUFFLE

Although the Sierra Club supports increasing in-fill development, Richmond is concerned about the cumulative effect contamination could have on city residents. "We're not just talking about ourselves, we're talking about future generations, in perpetuity," he says.

Acceptable chemical levels for humans are always changing, he

says. For example, the tolerable level of benzene dropped considerably over the past decade because the chemical has been found much more dangerous than previously thought.

Currently, only parking lots are dealt with in the same way that's being proposed by the by-law, says Elson Zazulak, an environmental systems senior advisor with Capital Health. Commercial properties built on contaminated lands don't concern him. In these cases, the owner must hire an engineer who monitors contamination levels at the site and sends the results directly to Capital Health. If dangerous levels of chemicals are found, the regional health body either works with the owners to lower the levels of contaminants or evacuate the building.

Landowners are also responsible for ensuring the pollution doesn't seep into other areas of the city, says Gary Woloshyniuk, a manager in the city's Office of the Environment. The only way the city becomes aware of the contamination is if a developer applies to have the zoning changed. The city can negotiate monitoring requirements, but cannot enforce clean-up requirements. "Our hands are tied in that respect according to the law," he says.

The province has three actions it can take, says Jodie Hierlmeier, a lawyer with the Environmental Law Centre in Edmonton. Issuing an environmental protection order, which sets out cleaning procedures and timelines, is the most common. The province can also take polluters to court. Fines or a prison term result from a guilty verdict. However, the fines are often not enough to cover clean-up expenses, Hierlmeier says.

If a site has no clear polluter, the province can designate a site contaminated and hold present and past owners accountable, even if they

didn't own the land when the pollution occurred. But the provisions are rarely used, Hierlmeier says. Since the act came into use in 1993, only five sites have been designated the last one in 1996. "They've basically fallen into disuse," she says.

CLEAN-UP COSTS

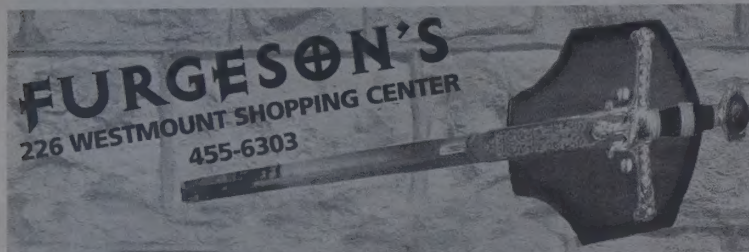
Even considering these weak enforcement tools, developers in changes are needed. Without the proposed by-law, contaminated lands will simply sit empty, says Don Hussey, a former developer and an environmental consultant to the private sector. He says the high cost of cleaning-up polluted lands often means the builder will lose money on the development. Contaminated lands present such a liability that banks often will not finance such developments. Changing the zoning would allow the developers to save on clean up costs and still build on the land.


Financial considerations cannot come before public health concerns, says Richmond. Besides, there are many other ways for developers to defray costs. All three levels of government have grants available for cleaning up pollution. Edmonton has a modest pilot project that provides a maximum of \$100,000 for each parcel of land.

Building over pollution could cost the city more in the long run. Chemicals in the soil could seep into other areas of the city. In Calgary for example, pollutants in the soil traveled underground to within reach of the Bow River. The dam required protecting the river cost Calgary millions of dollars, he says.


The cost of fully cleaning the area, or taking the time to apply for government grants, should become part of the cost of doing business in Edmonton, he says. If the site on Whyte Avenue costs more to build on, then the condos or retail space the land should also cost more. "Ultimately, it's not like the developers are going to lose money on this, it's just a different way of doing business."

ANGELA BRUNSON





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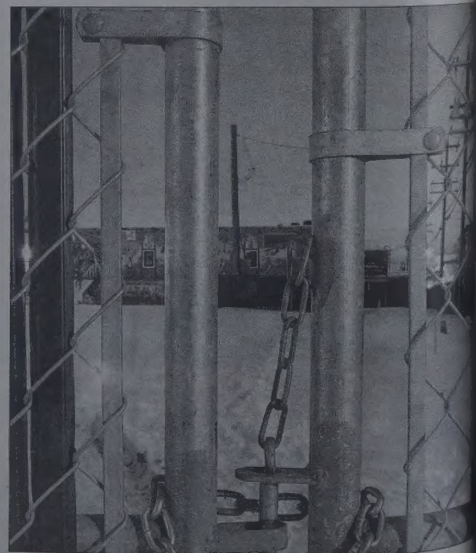
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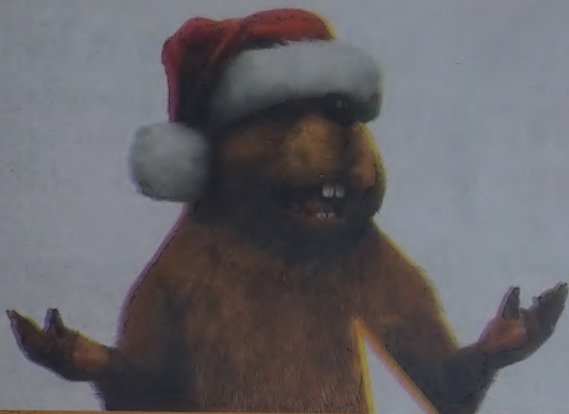
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parallels are being drawn between the careers of Stephane Dion and

tories about whether Dion and Stelmach have the stuff to do the job, the job being winning the next election. Unlike Clark, however, both new

leaders have opened with firm, vocal affirmations of their intentions and have served notice to their political enemies that they are ready to fight. However, while Dion has set his

As with Clark, there are already questions among veteran party members mere hours after their vic-


sights on his primary electoral foe, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Stelmach has targeted Ottawa.

In part this makes sense, as Stelmach leads a party already in power, and faces a provincial opposition not exactly poised to defeat him. Also, Ottawa bashing is as common (in both senses of the word) as rodeo here, and PMs usually don't fight back, at least not in a way that undermines our provincial government.

But is it possible that Steinbock is making a mistake? After all, it's not those who are in the majority who vote for a candidate, but those who vote for a candidate who are in the majority. And if Steinbock is right, then the majority of voters who voted for Clinton in 1992 were not in the majority when they voted. That's a little hard to believe. It's more likely that Steinbock is right, and Clinton's popularity is based on being steady and cooperative, and that the majority sided with views that might be particular with an opponent's ability to fight back, hardly seems sporting, and seems a lot like grandstanding, something voters didn't appear to like in the men Steinhack defeated.

But let's face it: Stelmach's popularity is also largely based on ignorance of who he really is. He was the overwhelming second choice of people who didn't want Dinning as premier, and the same for those who didn't want Morton. When two camps see the same person as much closer to their own views than to their principal opponent's, something other than reality is clearly at work.

The fact is that Stelmach vaulted to the top provincial job without substantive media scrutiny (like Clark and Dion) and without a coherent, detailed platform that stakes out where he is on the political map. The reason someone like Morton feels so comfortable with Stelmach is that he sees him as malleable, or at least as someone suffi-



cently's evolution of his own ideological agenda, he provided letters, spurs for Mervyn Dymally, his own likeable, colorful, and at times, a bit cabaret-like, American charge of intergovernmental relations. In his justice and equity, he was nonpartisan, would have no province. It would also likely lead to legal battles, as just about everyone would stand behind his proposed legislation: legal precedents, common sense, and good taste.

the federal plan, not least of Alberta, would be for Stelmach to give Morton something like infrastructure or natural resources instead, reducing Morton's scope for fascist experimentation and taking up a lot of his time. Should Morton complain, he could easily be made to look a cad, unwilling to assume the critical responsibility for managing the fallout of the current oil boom to the benefit of the people of this province, something outgoing premier Klein admitted he couldn't be bothered to do.

This will be Stelmach's first real test: Does he want a big-tent, inclusive Alberta as he promised, or will he become a prisoner of the man whose loony, fundy supporters' second ballot preferences put him over the top? A real winner would have no hesitation in making the right choice.

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opinion

The Mii Generation

When everyone is special, no one is

WHAT INVENTED STATISTIC WOULD you have define you? What nouns do you use? Are you among those fracturing from the core? A Western-world separatist? In the words of a clever friend, to get specific, "It's funny how every chick with black hair thinks she's a fucking gypsy right now."

From all directions there comes a sad and inextinguishable fire of pointless self-description that's overtaken a generation, often based on group or racial qualifiers.

Pushing our regions and ethnicities and even favourite bands to the front with all the unspoken superiority and exclusivity certainly implied. But, now, with a global broadcast mechanism.

And so, a frantic rechecking of MySpace to see how many profile views. A desperate need for the least honest photo, all overexposed and shot from above to hide a number of obvious offenses: weight, bad skin, total nerd, inability to love. A burqa of misdirection veiling a lack of self-worth is what it comes down to. Irony everywhere: full disclosure intricately constructed to impress and woo. I'm guilty of it too, understand that.

But where does it come from? Why are only the most violent and drunk among us excited about being Canadian? Well, because blind nationalism is stupid, of course. But

HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY

when we define ourselves by a handpicked sliver of our back-grounds, how is that any different? Maybe we're just looking for something more interesting to adhere to than the spreading monoculture. It's a reasonable excuse that doesn't answer to the dangers of smug regionalism. Or the darkness that this arrogance hardens into in later years.

Look at the ongoing debate over Muslim veils on the cover of the Western Standard—with a beaver in a niqab—how we react with contempt to underexposure, to keeping things secret or private.

Dividing ourselves into camps is as old as war, of course. But technology accelerated provincialism in new and interesting ways. Sometimes it's easy to forget how the West became the Mii Generation, seemingly overnight.

Following other leads, Oprah Winfrey popularized a terrible thing in the '80s as suddenly bad behaviour of fractured people became good television.

As she realized the error of her ways and stopped (too late!) building a succubus' multimillion-dollar

empire, bleeding money off the poor and dysfunctional, the tsunami of judgmental talk shows had already come to dominate the afternoons. With hundreds of millions watching.

Oprah repented by highlighting the good deeds of normal people, but even this served to raise our self-indulgence. Made the obscure realize we were as interesting as stars—the point missing disconnect coming with a craving and expectation to share the fame. And on the flip side, a whole industry of thankless hypocrites created only to savage fading entertainers.

Then, taking clues from Japanese game shows that immersed contestants in warm baths, reality. Real-life scheming and betrayal on the gold-rush media—when we became the news, the takeover complete.

Well, I'm not going to take down the MySpace page. Or dismantle the photo blog. Like a lot of you, I'm addicted to the hits, the tingle of strange eyes and the chance to be casual friends happy birthday.

But you do know that we're pathetic, right? All of us—retailers, cubicle novelists, blowhard pundits that put more effort into trimming our own hedge than actually reaching out and helping the hopeless. I'm going to work on a little.

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RE:READING

JAY SMITH

NO MOOD FOR MAHMOUD
OUR COMPREHENSION OF THE WORLD around us is an intensely narrative affair. Anyone who has ever told a story about a stubbed toe or wrote a history-class research paper knows that, in answering the question, "What happened?" a story evolves. And, in every story, certain details must be excluded, others highlighted: ultimately, promoting a sequence of events that "makes sense" matters a lot.

Of late, we have been thinking of the presentation of contemporary world events as historical narrative, one that lacks the corrective benefit of hindsight. Like any good story, we witness the promotion of the "good gal" (the protagonist, we literary folk say) and the attempted elimination of the "bad gal" (the antagonist).

Of course, in the real world of political actions, our present election of the female pronoun is merely quaint.

Specifically, we speak of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran. With a surname so thwarting pronunciation in the English-language press, it's surprising how often it is repeated, mantra-like, as if in the hopes of conjuring a new

Hitler from the ashes of Mid-East political stability.

And every time "Ah-ma-di-ne-jad" is said, something immediately follows that mentions that he is a "holocaust denier," or "wishes to wipe Israel from the map."

These days, he is the antagonist extraordinaire.

When one takes into account the potency of the rhetorical monotonies that issue from the White House Press Bureau, it's not always easy to figure out how evil this guy is. We watched him address the U.N. some months ago: in the unedited version, he seems far, far more rational than Bush.

Though we're a million miles from defending the man, we would like to know exactly how many times he's uttered Anti-Semitic remarks in public, since the phrasing of the quotations is always identical. Meanwhile, who is reporting on the CIA's findings that Iran is not seeking to develop the nuclear bomb?

Anyway, the explicitly literary connection to all this musing is a story recently posted on cbc.ca entitled "Iran bans thousands of books, calling publishers' assistants of evil."

Apparently, the Iranian culture minister has ix-nayed titles ranging from those of acclaimed Iranian novelist Sadeq Hedayat to Dan Brown. CBC reports that Ah-ma-di-ne-jad has sent down an edict "prohibiting works that are deemed too Western or allegedly make Iranians feel inferior." Publishers, as one would expect, are up in arms.



The Iranian culture minister claims that allowing youth to read *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner, and titles of its ilk, is akin to serving "a poisoned dish to the younger generation."

The conditions for critical thinking, sadly, seem absent on both sides.

WORDSMITH WISHLIST
BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT BUYING Christmas gifts sucks, at least purchasing commercially-produced consumer junk, here are two excuses to avoid the mall, a.k.a. epicentre of the culturally moribund.

The Olive Reading Series, the monthly reading that features local and not-local poetic talent, has changed location! This Tuesday, head down to Huibert's (7601 - 115 St.) for 7 pm to hear Governor-General's-Award-nominated poet Sharon Thesen read. As always, the event produces a chapbook of previ-

ously unpublished poems by the featured poet (stocking stuffer, anyone?), and there is an open mic after Thesen reads.

On Wednesday, visit the Upper Crust (10909 - 86 Ave.) to hear renowned storyteller Gail de Vos tell Christmas tales. Hosted by the Writers Guild of Alberta, the event

promises that de Vos will "share the ingredients for the classic Christmas tale" and will "teach techniques for enchanting an audience" with your own Christmas stories. An open mic follows de Vos' performance (sign up begins at 6:30 pm).

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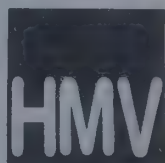
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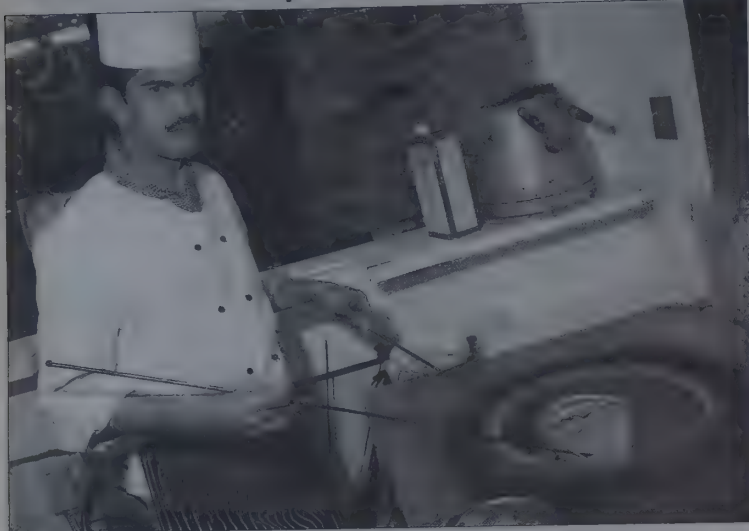
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IN THE LATE '60s, RINGO STARR LEFT the rest of the lads from Liverpool with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in Rishikesh and returned to England, reportedly because he couldn't stand the food in India. Ringo. Buddy. What were you thinking?

The cuisine in India is integral to its culture and religion, and varies from region to region. In fact, it's kind of a misnomer to say "Indian cuisine" because there are so many regional variations, but it makes no

difference to me. I love them all.

In the throes of a deep dark winter night, there is nothing quite like northern Indian tandoori to warm you to the depths of your very self. The tandoor is a large clay oven (more closely related to a pot) in which a fire is built. The oven is lined with ceramic tile to deflect the heat back to the center, and the whole thing is typically buried so that only the top opening is visible. This way, no heat is lost, and the oven easily reaches 500 degrees Celsius with minimal fuel. In the middle of a cold dark -25 degree night, a restaurant called Tandoori Grill

Express and Montreal Deli sounded like an interesting idea—although the whole Montreal Deli thing was lost on me, but we'll get to that later.

I was coming from the far West End with one child, and my wife was in the northeast with another child, and it was late, and the kids were in less than stellar moods, so we called in our order despite never having been there before and not knowing what was on the menu. Luckily, the fellow on the other end of the line was very helpful.

We asked about a Rogan Josh (a standard lamb curry from northern India), some Dal (a lentil stew), Alu

Gobi (potatoes and cauliflower cooked in chilies and spices), and, of course, some Naan (a lightly leavened bread cooked on the inside walls of the tandoor).

"Oh yes, yes. We can do Lamb Curry. Oh yes, yes. We can do two types of Dal—how about the yellow? Alu Gobi—yes, very good. How about some saffron rice?" He also called us back to check what level of spice we could tolerate. So, you can imagine my surprise when I finally saw a menu, and realized that except for the Naan and possibly the lamb curry, nothing we ordered was on it. The man, sensing my unease, simply smiled and said, "That's ok. We have some really talented chefs, but you'll see that. If you have some favourite foods, we can make them."

The actual menu mainly offers some dodgy looking tandoori wraps with salad, tandoori chicken pieces, and that whole Montreal deli section with donairs and other stuff like egg-salad sandwiches and soup. Additionally, you sort of get the sense that this is like a restaurant on the Moon—there's no atmosphere. So, I have to be honest. The whole east-meets-west menu thing is way too post-modern for me and had I seen the menu, there's no way I would have reviewed this place. But the stuff on the menu is not what we got, and in the end I can live with the décor if it means food this good.

What we got was likely one of the best lamb curries I've ever had. There are a few different ways to make a Rogan Josh, but the basic ingredients remain the same. My preferred method is to sauté the lamb (which has been dry coated in the curry spices) along with some onion, garlic, and ginger. Once the meat is nicely browned, tomatoes are added, and the liquid is boiled off. Next, yogurt is dumped in and

cooked until much of the moisture evaporates, and then the whole thing sits at a very low heat. Just before serving, saffron water is added to re-hydrate the stew, forming a wonderful and rich sauce full of flavour.

Our Rogan Josh had a first-rate sauce, chunks of lamb on-the-bone cooking, cinnamon sticks, cardamom pods, whole peppers, and garam masala. It really was quite simply one of the best lamb curries I can remember having. Likewise the Alu Gobi, which came topped with a bit of fresh coriander, was flavourful and light and served as a nice complement to the lamb. Even the Dal, which was a bit runny, had an excellent, subtle flavour that combined numerous spices in a very even-handed manner.

Oh, but the best part of the meal by far was the Naan. The bread, which is made fresh in their tandoor daily, was chewy, moist, and excellent for sopping up the lamb gravy.

I think I know where Ringo went wrong with his dining experiences in India. He probably ordered from the menu and ended up eating fatty meat donairs. Had he simply chatted to the nice fellow at the counter, he might have gotten some real food.

If you make your way over to Tandoori Grill Express (I'm not going to mention that other part) spend some time chatting with the folks behind the counter. If you don't, I won't be held accountable. If you do, you might just find that you have a new favourite spot for Indian food.

BYRONNE BARRON

TRIMLINGS

With the holiday season just around the corner, it's not too early to start thinking about making plans for New Year's Eve. Four Rooms will be hosting a Hollywood Glamour supper club party focusing on the movie styles from the golden era of cinema on Dec 31. For more information, call 426-4767.

Send your foodie news/tips to food@see.greathorn.com

RECOMMENDED RECENTLY

DINER

TASTY TOM'S DINER (9965-82 Ave.) Despite the name, it's not a "turkey-only" restaurant. In fact, there's a fairly eclectic menu offering a wide range of diner favourites at OK prices. Tom's is a good choice for a nice summer Sunday brunch on the back patio, or a laid back burger and beer. ★★☆☆☆ (May 2006)

FRENCH

LA TABLE DE RENOIR (10046-101A Ave.) I can't think of a better way to spend your lunch hour or a warm summer evening than sitting out on La Table de Renoir's patio enjoying one of their traditionally prepared Provencal classics. A nice touch of cafe culture here in downtown Edmonton never hurt anyone. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

FUSION

L'AZIA (10200-102 Ave.) Something for everyone hardly begins to describe L'Azia. A great place for group outings or fun evenings for two in warm and inviting surroundings with good food. If you can't find something

on their extensive menu to fit your taste and budget, it's your own damn fault. ★★☆☆☆ (April 2006)

BURGERS

MOTORAUENT (12406-66 St.) Although the food is relatively good, the real reason for visiting Motorauent is to see the physical structure of the place. To say it's unique hardly does it justice. Overall, it's a fun place to go and experience with some friends. Unless you've been before, you're likely never had an experience like Motorauent. ★★☆☆☆ (Nov 2006)

ITALIAN

SANTOS PIZZA AND STEAK (10821-95 St.) Excellent place for a lunchtime sandwich in the heart of Edmonton's little Italy. It's not all fancy schmancy and uptight or anything, but then again it isn't all fancy schmancy and uptight. They offer good standard Italian fare, prepared well, at reasonable prices. What's not to like? ★★☆☆☆ (Sept 2006)

CENTRAL AMERICAN

MEXICANO MEXICAN RESTAURANT (11810-87 St.) If you're looking for some quick Mexican-esque take-out food, this prepared from scratch authentic Mexican/Salvadoran restaurant isn't the place for you. Allow yourself some time to sit

back and enjoy El Rancho's authentic food at reasonable prices. ★★☆☆☆ (Mar 2006)

MIDDLE EASTERN

KAMIL'S TURKISH CAFE AND RESTAURANT (12408-118 Ave.) If you're the type that can relax and just go with the flow and not be too off-put by Kamil's location and informal nature, you might have a new favourite little spot for some down-home Turkish food. ★★☆☆☆ (Aug 2006)

LUNCH

ARBOR RESTAURANT (RUTHERFORD HOUSE) 11153 Sask. Dr., U of A Campus) The perfect place to take your wife's mother's second aunt twice-removed if you need to entertain her for an afternoon and listen to stories about how things used to be in the day. Try the sandwiches or the afternoon tea. If this is your thing, this is your place. ★★☆☆☆ (Sept 2006)

JAPANESE

I LOVE SUSHI (10108-105 St.) If you're in the downtown area and in the mood for a raw deal, look no further than I Love Sushi. Relatively good sushi, sashimi, Bento boxes and udon at justifiable prices, served in simple surroundings. ★★☆☆☆ (May 2006)

DELI

COL MUSTARD'S CANTEN AND CATER-

ING CO. (10802-124 St.) Oh my God! Comfy and casual in great surroundings doesn't even begin to describe the feeling you get in Col. Mustard's. It's a little pricey for a sandwich and a bowl of soup, but given their dedication to quality, it's worth the extra cost to ensure superior products. ★★☆☆☆ (May 2006)

SPANISH

LA TAPA (10523-99 Ave.) A great little Spanish place for a warm summer evening. If you can, try to get a seat on the patio, drink sangria, spend some time putting a good selection of tapas together, and then relax. If you follow these directions, you should be in for a fun night. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

PIZZA

DALLAS PIZZA & STEAKHOUSE (7834-106 Ave.) Dallas is really your prototypical pizza and steakhouse type restaurant from a bygone era. But, given that the food is well-prepared, the service is good, and the price is reasonable, it makes me wonder why we're moved on? Give the Dallas a try and you'll find yourself asking the same thing. ★★☆☆☆ (Aug 2006)

KOSHER

CAFE LEVI (Europa Boulevard, WEM) You've

got to be meshungina if you think there's a better place for falafels in Edmonton. The next time you're at the mall and need a little dose of yourself a favour and give this kosher food counter a try for an orthodox take on traditional mall fare. ★★☆☆☆ (May 2006)

SOUTHEAST ASIAN

BAN THAI (15726-100 Ave.) Fairly authentic tasting Thai food in a restaurant would I describe the surroundings as fairly authentic as well? At any rate, the dishes are what I imagine really good home-cooked food is like in Thailand. A bit pricey, though. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

FINE DINING

MADISON'S GRILL (10053-JASPER AVE.) Without a doubt, Madison's is one of the best restaurants in Edmonton. The warm and comfortable surroundings make this a perfect place for a romantic getaway, or for that special occasion. ★★☆☆☆ (July 2006)

VEGETARIAN

PADMANADI (10626 - 97 St.) Padmanadi offers wonderful Malaysian vegetarian food at more than reasonable prices. Everything on the menu is vegetarian, friendly, and everyone in the place is friendly to vegans. Or non-vegans for that matter. They're just plain nice. ★★☆☆☆ (Sept 2006)

Emerging through the Portal

Local artists find alternative to the alternative



Financial investors are urging their clients to invest in art and it is not surprising that this is actually how Tonkonogy got involved with the Portal.

"I was commissioned to do a piece upstairs [in the Kendall Building] in the community."

"There's not that much south of the river for art, but we're in this great neighbourhood that's not Whyte Ave."

ANYA TONKONOGY

ing! for these financial guys who own the entire building, and they were talking about how this block was really missing an art space, and eventually, I was in here with a sledgehammer taking out walls," Tonkonogy laughs, with some sense of bewilderment and excitement.

Right next door to the Red Ox Inn, the Portal is a small, unassuming space. Simple, with a touch of class, the 500-odd square feet space fits well into its surrounding French Quarters and makes a pleasant destination spot for most visitors.

For its debut show, emerging local artists Giselle Denis, Jana Hargarten, Karen Nichols, Parasia Rachynski, along with Tonkonogy celebrated with a large group of friends and families during one of the coldest weekends so far this winter. Although it's clear that the show was pulled together through a small network of personal contacts, the Portal is still very much finding itself

in the community.

I would like the Portal to eventually play a viable role in the art scene. I don't want to run a boutique of just selling art, but I want to open up the gallery and interact with people. To bring out the human interaction in art.

As part of her goal to better understand Edmonton's artist community, she attended a discussion at the AGA and walked away with a lingering feeling that, in Canada, there is an art scene. Paraphrasing one of the speakers, Tonkonogy related to the observation that we, as Canadians, and certainly as Edmontonians, lack an art world.

Growing up in Eastern Europe, her mother often took her to classical concerts and galleries and museums and instilled a lasting appreciation of art as culture, of art as a heritage that reflects nationally and historically relevant traditions.

"I really feel that this is something that is missing here; that there isn't any value on the tradition of art and people end up feeling stupid or intimidated in an artistic setting," Tonkonogy says, who has also lived

in Montreal for an extended period of time, while completing her Master's thesis. As a collector of opinions, she welcomes the challenge of engaging anyone on the topic of art.

"I don't want to shame anyone who wants to buy a TV or a truck rather than a painting. I'm realistic with what's here, but there has to be a starting point. Art doesn't exist in a bubble. Come on in and say whatever you want in here. I'm a psych major. I can handle it."

AMY FUNG

BEYOND THE DOOR

■ **Dec 5** check out local artist Jenni Fries' opening reception on the south side of the Red Strip Market (1000 St. St.) from 8 pm and on (Read the rest of the new exhibition in next week's issue).

■ **Dec 9** the new Papercastle Art & Photography is kicking off their first season with a show on Sat, Dec 9, at Orange Hall (1000 Ave.), from 4 - 8 pm. Also featuring visual artist Mark Templeton. There will also be a Christmas baking fundraiser for Samaritan's Purse.

■ **Latitude 53's** seasonal fundraiser (this winter named "The Fine Art of Schmoozy White-Hot & Shaken") takes place at 8 pm on Sat, Dec 9. Tickets are \$12 (members), \$16 (non-members), or \$18 (at the door). Get Schmoozy.

THE PORTAL GALLERY
1000 St. St. (Kendall Building),
open Tue & Wed Noon - 5 pm, Thu & Fri
open 11 pm, Sat Noon - 7 pm. Closed
Sundays & Mondays.

AT THIS TIME LAST MONTH, ANYA Tonkonogy was still working in a shoe store. Granted, it was a very fashionable shoe store, but today the manager in Art Therapy graduate is now in a manager and co-exhibitor of Edmonton's newest commercial art venture, The Portal Art Gallery.

A commercial space filled with emerging local artists is, to say the least, surprising for Edmonton's art scene. With a host of artist-run galleries and DIY exhibitions, emerging artists have always found an alternative to showcase their work.

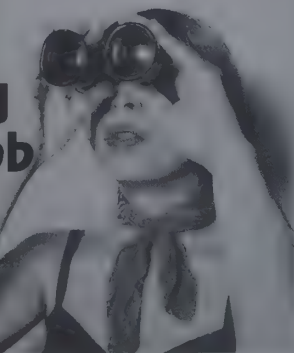
"There's not that much south of the river for art, but we're in this great neighbourhood that's not Whyte Ave.," says Tonkonogy, who says to feel out the neighborhood and eventually fill in the void between local artists and local patrons.

"I want people to own local art. Instead of investing in a new flat-

screen TV, why not invest in a piece of art?"

It's more than just wishful thinking. Tonkonogy is well aware that the commodity of art is rising in Alberta beyond corporate culture. Always a status symbol, a well-known piece of art is just as valued as that Benz in your driveway or that cabin on the Salt Springs

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1000 St. St. (Kendall Building) 1000 St. St. (Kendall Building)



FERNANDA TORRES Winner, at age 20, of a Best Actress Palme D'Or at Cannes in 1986

Awakening in the desert

Stunning performances build *House of Sand*

HOUSE OF SAND (CASA DE AREIA)

Directed by Andruca Waddington. Starring Fernanda Montenegro, Fernanda Torres. Seu Jorge, Dec 8 & 10, 9 pm, Dec 9 & 11, 6:45 pm. Metro Cinema, Zeidler Hall. Citadel Theatre. *****

THE STAR OF ANDRUCHA Waddington's *House of Sand* (*Casa de Areia*) isn't either of its female leads, who together constitute a Brazilian mega-star dynasty, but the unearthly geography of the Lençóis Maranhenses National Park, a 300 square

kilometre dune of blinding white sand dotted with turquoise lakes on the northern coast of Brazil. The feeling of utter desolation evoked by images of its ceaselessly shifting sands is such a huge part of *House of Sand*, no place else could have substituted. Those who avoid experiences involving the feeling of utter desolation, this is your cue to leave.

The mother-daughter team of Fernanda Montenegro and Fernanda Torres, multiple award-winners both, portray three generations of

women who end up stranded on the fringes of human existence by fate. Montenegro gets to play all three of the film's main female characters at various points in their lives, and plays two of them at the same time. If it sounds like a stunt, the performers make it seem profound.

In 1910, Aurea (Torres) and her mother Dona Maria (Montenegro) follow Aurea's husband into the desert of Maranhão to build a community on some land he has deeded to. Upon arriving in the middle of

nowhere and putting down stakes, Aurea realizes that her husband is barking mad. When he dies and it becomes obvious they have no way to get back where they came from, the pregnant Aurea and her mother move in with the locals, descendants of runaway slaves who didn't ever return to the towns after slavery was abolished, but eke out a subsistence on goats, fish and whatever they can get in trade. Aurea gives birth to a daughter, another Maria, and tries to figure out a way to transport her

family back to the modern world while cultivating a wary relationship with Massu (Seu Jorge), a taciturn fisherman. In the meantime, the shifting sands constantly threaten to consume her home.

Though it starts blowing away right off the mark with overwhelming images of the landscape—"what is not land but sky," Aurea observes, and Waddington's widescreen compositions prove it over and over, *House of Sand* feels a little slow because Aurea and her mother are buffeted by the wind and sand a great deal before they find their uncomfortable niche in Maranhão, and you start to dread the possibility that all this stoic struggling against the elements and the elements is all you can look forward to.

But then Aurea finds a mysterious implement in the sand, a technology the likes of which is in her neck of the desert have never seen, and tracks it to an elderly astronomer who has driven to the middle of nowhere to photograph an astronomical phenomenon that confirms one of Einstein's theories. Years of austerity have left her rawboned and remote, but a taste of the world she left behind awakens the senses that have been deprived of any sight but the sand and any sound but that of the wind. Waddington's Torres convey this awakening with her face and body in a manner as is seeing her become a completely different person when she assumes the role of her own dissolute daughter in the film's final third.

Like finding a pool of blue-green water in the desert, it's a surprise to discover such a fundement of emotion in a film where you don't even get a very good look at the main characters' faces or hear them speak much for the first half-hour. But there is beauty out there in the middle of nowhere, for those who survive the trek.

SCOTT LIND

In the semi-rough

Blood Diamond suitably messy before it gets tidy

BLOOD DIAMOND

Directed by Edward Zwick. Starring Djimon Hounsou, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly. Opens Fri., Dec 8. *****

WHERE *Hotel Rwanda* fails, *Blood Diamond* sometimes succeeds.

Hotel Rwanda was a noble and finely crafted undertaking, but it tipped gingerly around the blood-spitting ferocity of genocide, fearful, perhaps, of alienating its audience with too much gore and gloom. (Which raises this question: Is it prudent to make an ultimately "hopeful" film about mass murder, especially when your audience has trouble distinguishing entertainment from an emergency, happy to assume that misery is someone else's problem?)

In *Blood Diamonds*, bullets shred frantic citizens trapped between government and rebel forces indistinguishable in their barbarism. Children, eyes wild with fear, are dismembered. To be sure, *Blood Diamonds* averts its gaze a little, but when it doesn't pull its punches, it's a good but far from perfect film that

perhaps we should all see. Now might be an appropriate time, too, just as we're about to disgorge a wad of cash—big enough to delight a CEO—on gifts whose provenance we don't care to know.

Fisherman Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou) is separated from his family by rebels fighting the government of Sierra Leone. They press him into service picking diamonds out of a muddy river, where eventually he's mistaken for a rebel fighter and arrested, but not before hiding a sizable diamond. Former Rhodesian mercenary Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio) smuggles diamonds from Sierra Leone and neighbouring Liberia to a diamond cartel in London (which bears striking similarities to the famous folks who invented the diamond engagement ring "tradition"). He wants Solomon's diamond—it's his ticket out of Africa, so he coaxes intrepid American reporter Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly) into helping to locate Solomon's family. In the meantime, his young son has been captured by the rebels and systematically and

cynically turned into a soldier.

Although you won't really get all of the details straight, you will understand, by the end, that the situation is complicated, and that everyone, local or otherwise, is fucking someone else over or is being fucked over or is waiting between fuckings over. And if you're not one of the people amused by the sight of a boy swooning from the effect of heroin injected by brainwashing thugs, you may also be sensitive enough to get that the wealthy world is implicated.

That's all to the good, but where *Hotel Rwanda* succeeded, *Blood Diamond* fails. The former movie demonstrated that you can have success at the box office with a black hero. Solomon is a decent man, but a bumpkin: he'd be lost were it not for the worldly-wise Archer. How will Africans be saved if not with the help of brainy Caucasians?

For his part, DiCaprio shows a little flair, but is still heavily ham-scented, and although Connelly is unquestionably luminous and sympathetic, she's no battle-hardened correspondent. Between them,

they're the least convincing characters on screen.

Of course, the usual plot inconveniences are taped together in the usual careless way (Uh... colonel? If your aerial attack kills everyone, how are you going to find that big ol' diamond?), but the film's primary failing is that it keeps the action "over there." If director Edward Zwick (*Leaving Normal*, *Glory*, *The Last Samurai*) really wanted to rub people's faces in it, he would have shown where the diamonds actually go—less to the impossibly ornate

necklace that we see hung over a bust in a London window, more to the fingers of women in white dresses in cities like Edmonton. Moreover, while he opts for the "it's all over, folks" statistical denouement at the end of the action is Hollywood hopeful.

It bears mentioning that although only a fraction of diamonds sold are believed to be "blood diamonds," a fraction of millions is still a big fraction. It's 2006: Do you know where that rock on your finger came from?

KEVIN MAZUR



A group of pink flamingos standing together. The flamingos are of various shades of pink and orange, with long, thin legs and long, curved necks. They are standing on a light-colored surface.

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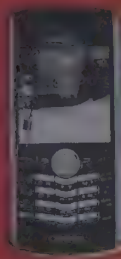
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465-5277

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Sacred spaces revealed

Three films chart the path to enlightenment

YATRA TRILOGY
Directed by John Bush, Featuring Tenzin L. Namgyal, Jason, John Bush, Metro Cinema, Hail *****

TRIPARTITE SERIES OF FILMS
John Bush's personal journey through the geographic signposts of Buddhist thought and culture. Each film has its own aesthetic, but because of the geography than any particular formula spelled out in reproduction.
Bush is an American photographer and filmmaker who embraced Buddhism teaching over 35 years ago while traveling through India. Much like Shrivara, who was compelled by winter forces to tear free of the shackles of his privileged existence and venture outside of the walls of his home, Bush has periodically broken free of his successful New York-based design company to make

indicates that more temples are clustered across this small piece of land than all of the churches that existed in Europe during the middle ages. An impressive feat for the creators, and a living testament of the abuses of time over the last 1000 years.
Earth is the theme of the second film, which traverses Cambodia, Bali and Java. Though the essence of this film is like that of the first, *Prajna Earth-Journey Into Sacred Nature* (Dec 9 & 13, 9 pm; Dec 12 & 17, 7 pm) is more refined in texture. A female narrator punctuates the spirit of the feminine through Prajna, or radiant wisdom. What is fascinating about this journey is that Bush takes his camera into the jungles of Java, Bali and Cambodia to unearth temples that have been abandoned and are just now starting to be uncovered by archeologists trying to understand more about the ancient faith of Buddhism. Nature provides the back-



drop for many of the shots in this second film: venous roots engulf ancient stone walls, like some giant octopus swallowing its prey. There is a sense of tragedy evident here, as the countries involved, in particular Cambodia, have been through the ravages of poverty and war. *Prajna Earth* also deals with the blend of faiths that eventually gave way to Buddhism. Specifically the Hindu religion with its tales of morality woven into the stone palaces, and the animistic faith practiced by the ancients of these regions has had an indelible effect on the course of contemporary Buddhism.
The latest film, *Vajra Sky Over Tibet* (Dec 10 & 15, 7 pm; Dec 12 & 18, 9 pm) aside from being more technically refined, is the most interesting because Bush weaves together three narrative voices to tell the story of the Tibetan monks and their quest

What was once a bustling society housing 8,000 monks has been reduced to 400.

Obviously infused with a healthy degree of passion for and knowledge of the subject, this three-part journey is satisfying fare for anyone hungry to discover more about the tenets of this monastic culture, and those who seek to travel vicariously through the gorgeous mountains of Tibet, along the veins of the rivers of Dharma, through Laos and Burma, and the jungles of Cambodia.

Collectively, the often picturesque images painted in these films remain etched in one's brain long after viewing.
That Bush has an eye is undeniable, but his method of shooting the material is naive at times. Specifically, in the first film the director tends to use the auto-zoom button to impose the piece with movement as one shot dissolves to another.

Beyond those technical concerns, the *Yatra Trilogy* is a good collection of epistemological "road movies" that, as you would expect, do not seek to challenge, but rather enlighten the viewer.

The series opens with *Yatra One, or the Dharma River—Journey of a Thousand Buddhas* (Dec 8 & 13, 7 pm; Dec 11 & 16, 9 pm) *Yatra* fittingly comes from the Sanskrit term meaning "sacred journey," and in this instance the filmmaker is not only a pilgrim but also the person charged with capturing his expedition as it unfolds. As he steps in Thailand, Laos, and Burma, Bush takes time to share Buddhist teachings and history. At times the hand-held camera work is distracting, but the fact that Bush has earned the privilege to share the spiritual face of Bangkok with those of us who have come to envision this city as an Asian playground is a revelation. The highlight of this segment is when Bush travels to Burma, a once prosperous nation that has fallen into ruin at the hands of various military regimes. The filmmaker's images of the Bagan region in Burma are arresting in their painterly beauty. The spires and pagodas above the horizon from the temples and pagodas that litter the valley seem lost in time. Bush

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SOUTH COMMON CLAREVIEW CITY CENTRE NORTH EDMONTON GALLATY

PRINCESS
1938
THE U.S. VS. JOHN LENNON
Nightly 7:10 pm
Sat & Sun Matinee 1:30pm
Rated P.G. violence

EDWARD MURPHY, JR.
MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES
Nightly 7:00 pm
Sat & Sun Matinee 1:00pm
Rated G

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
A FAMILY ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKDOWN
Nightly 9:00 pm
Sat & Sun Matinee 3:00pm
Rated 14A coarse language, mature themes

BABEL
Nightly 9:10 pm
Sat & Sun Matinee 3:30pm
Rated 14A mature themes, not recommended for children

Just wait for New Year's

By-the-numbers chick-flick retreads same old, same old

THE HOLIDAY
Directed by Nancy Meyers, Starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black.
Opens Fri. Dec. 8 ★★½

THE COMMON WISDOM SAYS THAT the holidays are the hardest time for single people. I have always doubted this. It just seems like a myth repeated by those who want single people to feel bad. In fact, singles are those who actually have more potential fun at this time of year, what with all the pretty, shiny clothes and parties involving champagne punch. If you've ever listened to couples with children complain about decorating, shopping, screaming, sugar-psychoic kids, and trying to balance family obligations to both sets of grandparents, you know that the miserable singles stereotype is just sour grapes.

Nevertheless, chick flick maven (*What Women Want*, *Something's Gotta Give*) Nancy Meyers is hoping single women are willing to swallow the myth, since it's the entire foundation for *The Holiday*, a wishful-thinking story filled with contrived romance that, to any reasonable person, seems like more trouble than it's worth.

The scenario is as follows: Iris (Kate Winslet) is the weddings reporter for a London newspaper. She has been involved in an agonizing romantic situation for years, being the short side to a romantic isosceles triangle. The day before Christmas holidays, her on-off lover (Rufus Sewell) announces his engagement. In the meantime, Amanda (Cameron Diaz), a high-maintenance editor of movie trailers, has discovered that her live-in boyfriend (Edward Burns) has been unfaithful and pitches him out the

door. Both are looking for an escape, and find the answer on the Internet, in the form of a house exchange where they can remove themselves from the painfully familiar and nurse their broken hearts.

Then it's time to pair our miserable singles up: for Amanda, it's Graham (Jude Law), Iris' brother. We spend a great deal of time on this potential love affair even before we get to Iris, perhaps to play into American audiences' greater recognition of this couple, and because they are more conventionally attractive.

But I've always had trouble with Diaz carrying any romantic role. She has a nervous energy that usually translates into an awkward charm, but here she finally crosses the line: no longer delightfully ditzy, but hyper, like one of those small jittery dogs that you're sure is going to pee on the rug. Graham always seems

one tries to immediately thrust her into the sack.

Instead, she befriends an elderly neighbour (Eli Wallach), who turns out to be a screenwriter from the old days. He introduces her to the old classic romantic comedies, and she coaxes him out of his isolation. It's a wonderful, nurturing friendship for them both. But they can't just leave well enough alone. Enter Miles (Jack Black), whose own relationship parallels Iris' situation, so we force them together and are asked to buy it. Sure, Miles is sweet and funny. But everyone who's supposedly "falling in love" in this movie is really just rebounding, and the audience knows it.

And on top of all of that is an unnecessary meta-level where it's all about the love of cinema, the old-fashioned movie conventions like the meet-cute, the fated lovers, and happily ever after.

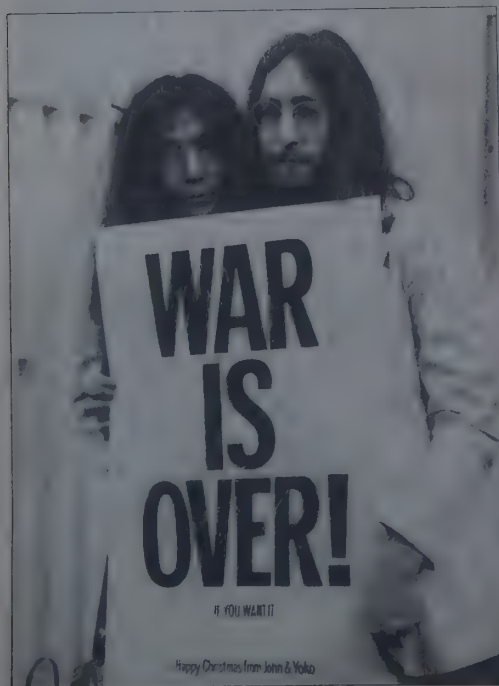
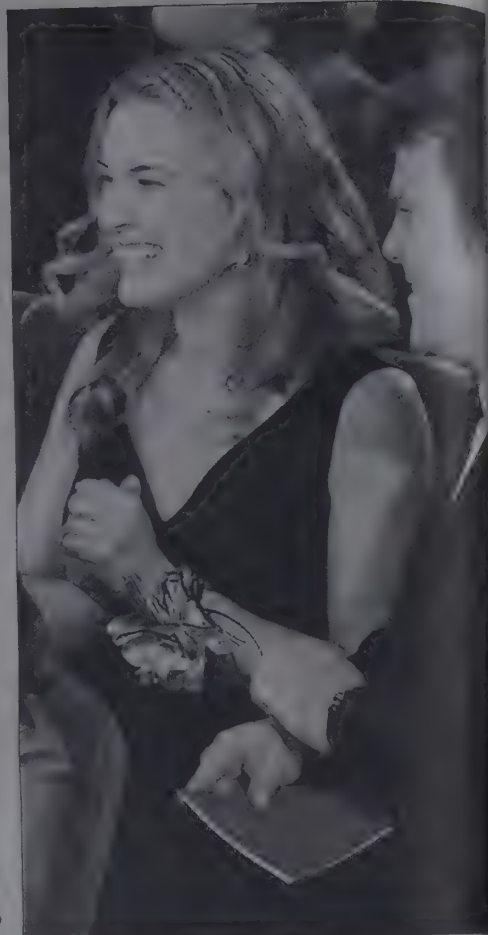
[Cameron Diaz] has a nervous energy... like one of those small jittery dogs that you're always sure is going to pee on the rug.

like he's waiting for her to stop vibrating. And as if to excuse Diaz's inability to play anything but the goofy clown, they actually have her character unable to cry.

It's a shame that the emphasis is on London, because the heart of the story is in L.A., with Iris. She displays immediate pleasure at how different her new home is, marveling at the modernity and insane Hollywood conveniences. And no

To hammer the point home, we are subjected to even more unnecessary faux-trailer voiceovers of Amanda's life. Even the title is one definite article away from one of the most romantic classic movie romances, *Holiday* with Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn, implying that this new film is the progeny of those golden years. Ugh. *The Holiday* is the misshapen runt of that litter

MARI SASANO



Distant karma

Lennon doc doesn't watch the wheels go round

THE U.S. vs. JOHN LENNON
Directed by David Leaf and John Scheinfeld.
Now playing, Princess Theatre, ★★½

MORE THAN ONE INTERVIEWEE IN THE *U.S. vs. John Lennon* suggests that as the rock star emerged from lovable mop-top-dom into the arena of political awareness that seasoned activists and savvy media manipulators like Jerry Rubin, founder of the yippie movement, and Abbie Hoffman were able to take advantage of the rock star's naive idealism and use him as a "tool" to further their own agendas.

That a famed narcissist like Lennon may have had an agenda of his own and that he was never the embodiment of a flower-child, but rather a troubled, often vitriolic man isn't touched on so much, but no matter, because the filmmakers have taken a cue from Hoffman and Rubin and essentially use Lennon as a tool themselves.

One might be lead to (rightfully) believe, given the title of this "documentary," that film's primary concern is about the long legal battle Lennon fought to stay in the U.S. following pressure put upon the U.S. department of immigration by the

Nixon administration to have the former-Beatle deported. It's a fascinating, frightening story of Orwellian proportions that deserves to be told, but it's only touched on for the final third here. The filmmakers go back much further, right to Lennon's childhood, when he was abandoned by both parents, to ostensibly lead-up to his status as an enemy of Nixon's state by tracing his evolution from rebel-without to rebel-with-a-cause.

But what's really being offered though is a piece of agit-prop that desperately wants to say, "activism en masse brought down one criminally-inclined, wire-tapping, civil-liberties-revoking president mired in an unpopular and unwinnable war, and it can be done again."

Indeed, in its final moments the film employs novelist Gore Vidal to toss away any pretense that this movie is at all about another place and another time, when he opines that John Lennon represented "life" while "Nixon... and Bush peddle death."

And, like any good piece of propaganda (whether or not you agree with the filmmaker's aims is moot in arguing whether or not to label it as

such; to pretend otherwise would be a lie) it works. One can't help—provided one isn't a right wing nut—but feel stirred and/or angered by the footage of speeches by Hoffman and Rubin and Black Panther Party founder Bobby Seale, or Angela Davis' defiant closed fist courtroom gesture to the cameras, or the brutal police beat-downs of protesters at the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago, etc., etc.

Then you find yourself wondering just what it'll take to get people outraged into action today, and what figureheads for social justice will rise in response to Bush's imperial presidency. Is a "bed-in" by Beyoncé in the works?

Seeing as how the answer to the one is a resounding "umm, I don't think so..." and that the *U.S. vs. John Lennon* ultimately isn't about Lennon so much as it is about the resonating silence greeting the atrocities of the current American administration, a more honest approach might have been to examine the differences between the cross-pollination of culture and protest then and now, and why we're so bogged down in apathy today.

A different film, yes, but one that doesn't assume we're too dumb to explore the issues, opting instead, is done here, to inspire change through the celebrity hagiography of another era.

ZOLTAN VANDERKAM

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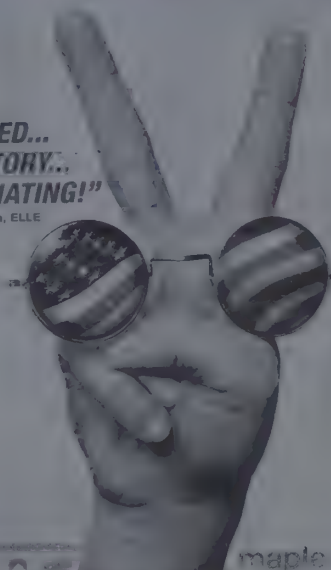
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on screen

Bunch of boobs

National Lampoon lampooning itself

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER 2: THE RISE OF TAJ
Directed by Mort Nathan, Starring Karl Penn,
Now Playing, 3.0/4.0

WHAT THE HELL IS NATIONAL LAMPOON

I mean, I know it was a humour magazine born out of the Harvard Lampoon in the 70s and which spawned the careers of many screenwriters who went to be associated with SNL and which also branched out into the movies with semi-funny fare (translation: hilarious at the time if you were 12).

But that shit folded ages ago. Who the hell is running it today and why do they think it still needs to exist? When was the last time since *Animal House* that any film prefaced by "National Lampoon" in the title made you stop and say, "Oh man, I've got to see that—that Lampoon sure is funny."

Such questions came to mind sitting in a near-empty theatre, waiting for a seemingly

endless and depressing barrage of commercials and trailers to end—for the record, I learned that you shouldn't smoke and that joining the army means rescuing people, not fighting wars.

Then the feature started; in it we find Taj Mahal Badalandabad (Karl Penn), fresh from his wacky adventures at an American college in the first movie, arriving to attend school in England. He, of course, becomes enemies with some stiff-upper-lip meanies and joins a fraternity of misfits whom he leads, of course, in a triumphant ascent from social nothingness to campus heroes.

Once again... who makes this shit?

Not even the actors here seem to, well, act. They just listlessly utter stale jokes about boobies and other matters somewhat related to sex.

As I waited for the pain to end, I couldn't help but recall how in the early '80s, when pay-per-view channels first started popping up on the dial, more than one kid patiently



sat through scrambled signals hoping for a glimpse of a female breast in negative.

Whoever you are, National Lampoon thanks for thinking of ten-year-olds 13 years ago in crafting your cultural humour.

ZOLTAN VARAD

Excess baggage

Don't give these Minors any company

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
Directed by Paul Feig, Starring Dyllan Christopher, Tyler James Williams, Lewis Black, Rob Cordry, Opens Fri, Dec 8,
★☆☆☆

AHHH... CHRISTMAS! WHEN CHRISTIANS celebrate the birth of their saviour Jesus Christ. It's also the time of year when people get drunk and exchange unnecessary gifts with each other and when the stress of the holiday season causes suicide rates to dramatically increase.

Personally, I think the most important part of Christmas is to spend some quality time with your family, which unfortunately causes some people to get drunk and/or kill themselves.

Hollywood seeks to capitalize on the our overwhelming stress during the holidays and releases the family Christmas movie that is supposed to bring us all together to laugh and cry and make us remember the true meaning of the holiday. Sometimes they're successful (*A Christmas Story*, *Scrooged*, *Christmas Vacation*) and sometimes not so much (*Christmas with the Kranks*, *Deck the Halls*, or the never ending Tim Allen Santa Claus movies). Unfortunately for those of us who travel long distances to get to suburban movie theatres, *Unaccompanied Minors* falls into the latter category.

It starts off with teenager Spencer Davenport (Dyllan Christopher) and his kid sister Katherine en route to spend the holidays with

their Mom in sunny Florida. Suddenly the blizzard of the century hits the Midwest, leaving them and many other passengers snowed in at the Chicago airport on Christmas Eve. Luckily, their father (Rob Cordry) is willing to brave the winter storm and drive his environmentally friendly bio-diesel car 1000 miles to go and pick them up so they can spend the holiday together.

While awaiting his arrival, the two kids find themselves trapped in a large room with a group of other children lost in transit, including brainiac Charlie Goldfinch (Tyler James Williams); snobby rich girl Grace (Gina Montagna); Donna (Quinn Shephard), a tomboy with anger-management issues; and the token fat kid (Brett Kelly), who communicates primarily with his Aquaman action figure. Rather than spend the evening trapped in the large concrete cell, this unlikely group of a teens forms an alliance and successfully escapes.

Unfortunately for them, the cranky Scrooge-like airport Manager Oliver Porter (Lewis Black) who was planning on heading to Hawaii for a long overdue vacation, has been snowed in at the airport as well and is in no mood for their juvenile delinquent hijinks. He gathers together a team of bumbling security guards to track down the kids and make sure that they have the worst Christmas ever.

Along the way, the mischievous tweens stage various stunts, such as disguising themselves as luggage and sliding around on



conveyor belts or rocking out in music cages, and eventually realizes that each of them is more than the stereotypical teenager have been identified with. Sound natural? Should. Think *Home Alone* in a more crossed with a tween version of *The Breakfast Club*.

Director Paul Feig (best known for his work on T.V.'s critically acclaimed, but commercially underappreciated, *Freddie's* *Geeks* and *Arrested Development*) manages to capture the prerequisite character performances from the young actors. He also utilizes the veteran comedic talents of Lewis Black or Rob Cordry. He tries his best to make the flimsy and predictable screenplay work by keeping the film moving at a brisk pace, but ultimately is unsuccessful in creating an authentic family film that is actually enjoyable for the whole family. *Unaccompanied Minors* will likely entertain kids between the ages of 7 and 13, but will ultimately fail anyone else to death.

NATHAN CUCKOY

Mr. and Mrs. Christ

Nativity gets the Mel outta Jesus

THE NATIVITY STORY
Directed by Catherine Hardwicke, Starring Keisha Castle-Hughes, Oscar Isaac, Claren Hinds, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Now playing,
★★★★☆

WITH *THE NATIVITY STORY*, DIRECTOR Catherine Hardwicke and screenwriter Mike Rich have set biblical cinema on its ear, for the genre's latest entry is devout yet not Passionate, epic yet economical, clocking in at a mere 101 minutes. We know the basics of Christ's birth: Bethlehem, the star, the stable, the three wise men. We know that his earthly parents were Mary and Joseph. But thanks to yearly pageants, all we seem to remember is two solitary figures in the corner, leaving us to wonder: Who the heck were they?

Thanks to a refreshing absence of ponder-

ous specifying, we finally get one version, because of the casting of Oscar-nominated Keisha Castle-Hughes as Mary. Just as Paikae dealt with discrimination in *Whale Rider*, Jesus' mother must deal with a Nazareth populace skeptical about divine conception when a woman's supposed to wait a year even after marriage or face stoning, the angel Gabriel and prophecy notwithstanding. But she's got the support of cousin Elizabeth (Shohreh Aghdashloo), future mother of John the Baptist. And after understandable initial misgivings, new husband Joseph (Oscar Isaac) is a tower of quiet strength as he and Mary make the hundred-mile trek to Bethlehem.

With the family audience in mind, the reverent *Nativity* is refreshingly free of guilt-driven Gibsonian violence, all the more remark-



able given Herod's historical firstborn rampage. Only the portrayal of the wise men as comic relief jars.

MIKE HENRI

capsule film reviews

Babel The supplemental title to Alejandro González Iñárritu's latest film should be *When Bad Things Happen to Everyone*. The director of *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams* offers another collaborative, the pieces of which interlock in a collage but apparently meaningful ways to reveal how we're all connected, especially when we hurt, and how our social structures and our undesired acts of violence afford us, to show how quickly the world can be wiped away by cruel fate. The parallel tragedies involved to explore this terrain, however, seem as false and poorly integrated as the words of poetry applied to make Brad Pitt look like a middle-aged male. Babel seems bloated more than informed by its welter of weighty conversations. ★★☆☆☆ (SL)

Bobby In Bobby, writer and director Emilio Estevez specializes on the assassination of Bobby Kennedy in an ensemble piece, where the impact of this death is related through the fates of nearly a dozen fictional characters present at the legendary Ambassador hotel the night he was killed. It doesn't actually reveal a lot about Kennedy, his life, ideas, or even why someone would want to kill him. While Estevez demonstrates an impressive ability to coax good performances from actors, one normally wouldn't even suspect of talking Bobby doesn't quite clear the park. There's attention to detail, lending a credible atmosphere, some entertaining moments, but, frankly, not enough Bobby. ★★☆☆☆ (LL)

Cohen: Cultural Learning of America for Making Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazahks Zachary Cohen Cohen's peculiar genius: going out into the world posing as gormless characters, breaking up against the powerful and the ordinary and using his cheerful ignorance to expose the latent bigotry, hypocrisy, and idiocy of total strangers. Cohen is a walking social effect, so warmly assonated in mock-cleverness that no amount of hostility will discourage him from perpetrating ever-greater abominations of effrontery, cultural sensitivity, and decency. Just when you think that he can't milk any more novelty out of his racist, sexist, homophobic, crude and patently dumb alter-ego, Cohen ups the ante, surrounding outrage with outrage until there's a little chance you might melt yourself. Far and away the funniest movie of the year. ★★★★★ (SL)

Casino Royale Casino Royale follows James Bond (Craig) to several exotic locations as he tracks down the main villain of the film, a banker in international terrorists, Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen). Director Martin Campbell has delivered a fantastic action film that relies more on suspense and intrigue than the over-the-top gadgetry of past Bond films. Casino Royale reinvents Bond: He's a lean, mean, cold-hearted, womanizing, professional killing machine. Here we are presented with a real, complex, and brooding man, who doesn't always win. This is a Bond that is rough around the edges and he's all the better for it. ★★☆☆☆ (NC)

Deja Vu Deja Vu starts with a terrorist bombing at a New Orleans passenger ferry that kills hundreds of people. ATF agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) investigates and uncovers the body of a terrorist (Claire Paula Patton), who was actually murdered earlier that day by the terrorist (Denzel Washington). Carlin then learns of a special high-tech surveillance device that allows you to watch the past unfold and, just possibly, travel back in time. But, director Tony Scott has managed to make a slow-paced, watered-down version of every other movie he's ever made. The only bright spot is Jim Caviezel, who manages to take the stock Unsubomber terrorist and create a genuinely menacing character. ★★☆☆☆ (NC)

The Departed Matt Damon is a cop working for the cops, and Alec Baldwin, Leonardo DiCaprio reports to Irish mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), whose thoughts are scarcely troubled by human feeling. Unfortunately, this Martin Scorsese remake of a Hong Kong action movie gives the actors little to play with. So even though Damon is really working for Nicholson and DiCaprio is really a mole for the cops, and even though Nicholson gives a great performance, this trip to the outskirts of the darkside

doesn't impress. ★★☆☆☆ (MH)

Fast Food Nation Co-written by author Eric Schlosser and director Richard Linklater (*Slacker*, *Waking Life*), *Fast Food Nation* takes hard-hitting reportage and creates a plausible and convincing narrative sure to upend even the most jaded of cinemagoers. The cast, a who's who of independent and mainstream cinema, features Greg Kinnear as the well-meaning but impotent fast food executive and Bruce Willis as his menacingly power-hungry colleague. The frontline associates at "Mickey's" are teenagers just as likely to rob the joint as they are to show up on time for their shifts. The gruesome final scenes of the killing floor in a meat plant are deeply disturbing. This is not an escapist Hollywood romp, but a scathing examination of what goes into our food. (RM)

Flicka Flicka is a curious hybrid, one that follows the blueprint of the girl and horse and a dad who just doesn't understand genre. Instead of drowning the proceedings in cloying clichés, they have grounded the timeworn plot with a braising dose of reality, while keeping the family-friendly tone intact. Alison (Matschick Men) Lohman's Katy McLaughlin is a realistic, free-spirited, and unsentimental 16-year-old who whistles away the hours at her stuffy Laramie, Wyoming private school with daydreams of running her family's ranch. Flicka rises to the occasion, as wild as advertised, a fresh and intelligent family adventure. ★★☆☆☆ (MH)

The Fountain In Darren Aronofsky's *The Fountain*, Hugh Jackman stars with Rachel Weisz in parallel stories spanning three centuries. Though not emotionally charged and metaphorically compelling, it looks astonishing. For a movie spanning three disparate epochs, it has remarkable visual coherency. However, it focuses so claustrophobically on the principle pair that it leaves the reality they live in only lightly shaded in. A little humour wouldn't have hurt either. In the end, *The Fountain* becomes so fixated on its grand themes that it fails to convince on a human scale. ★★☆☆☆ (SL)

Half Nelson The surprise hit of EIFF tells the story of Daniel Dunne (Ryan Gosling), a junior high school history teacher at an inner city school and a drug addict. When he is caught smoking crack in the girls' locker room by one of his students, Drey (Shoreeka Epps), the two of them are drawn together in an unusual friendship. Gosling (last seen in *The Notebook*) is amazing. Neither pitiful as a drug addict nor preachy about his role as an educator, he manages to embody these seeming opposites, a living example of a dialectic fighting for balance in one body. He's matched by Epps' stoical performance: It's incredible watching this character come to the knowledge of the failings of adults, that grown-ups are not immune from mistakes, false hope, and delusion. ★★☆☆☆ (MS)

Let's go to Prison Finally able to seek revenge on Judge Nelson Biederman III but cheated by the judge's death three days before his latest release, inmate John Lyshitski (Dax Shepard) gleefully gets himself sent back to torture Nelson Biederman the IV (Will Arnett), his cellmate and the judge's clueless miscreant son. Expect the usual jokes about showers, a sadistic warden, skinheads, and a gravelly-voiced African-American teddy bear named Barry (Chi McBride) who takes a shine to Biederman. This film owes its one star to a kinda imaginative climax. But ultimately, it's a shame that the film's catchiest aspect is its title. ★★☆☆☆ (MH)

Manufactured Landscapes A lovely piece of work by director Jennifer Baichwal following photographer Edward Burtynsky, whose landscapes fuse the pastoral with elements of our disposable culture. Baichwal seems to feel a little trapped by her subject, but she is to be applauded for getting this fascinating photographer's work out to us. Burtynsky paints pictures that are the antithesis of the prescriptive sentimentality we are used to seeing. At the heart of the film lies the reality that China is a nation rapidly becoming an urban society, making the film worth seeing just to catch a glimpse of the likely heir to the American Empire. ★★☆☆☆ (AK)

The Queen This is undeniably a classic two-hander about the Elizabethan monarch and her advisor, yet there's something not quite on about the idea of a film on the present monarch. In the 21st Century we ought to have got over our strange fascination with hereditary power and privilege. Fears' film seems altogether too soft and reverential, though it masquerades as a pithy critique of all things royal. This is a film that, for all its scenes of Elizabeth doing "normal" things like drinking tea, answering telephones, weeping, and swearing, has no interest in whether the members of the monarchy are really "just like us." ★★☆☆☆ (CN)

Stranger Than Fiction Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) wakes up to find that he's actually a character in a book and the voice is that of writer Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson). It sounds like a great idea, but somehow it goes off the rails, possibly because it's really just Charlie Kaufman by numbers. Everyone is too restrained (including Ferrell!), making the scenes ponderous and slow—bad news for a film that, at its core, is still a comedy. Nothing seems to ever gel, and every moment where you find yourself caught up in the story is undercut by something that knocks you out of it—forced "poignancy," unnecessarily elaborate and clunky shots and sets, artificial whimsy. ★★☆☆☆ (TM)

Reviewers: Nathan Cuckoo, Mike Hebert, Anthony King, Scott Lingley, Lech Linkiel, Roberto McDonald, Tom Murray, Celia Nicholls

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"coool..." Yeah. Any of that might be good. Here are some suggestions.

Next week: last minute panic!

**B & D
EMPORIUM
EDMONTON**

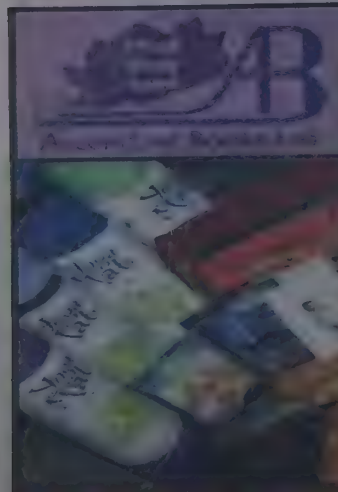
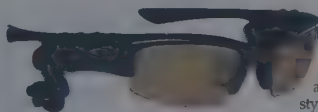
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

The Jetsons always promised us robot housekeepers. Finally, the day is here. For that clean freak you love so dearly, an automatic robot vacuum will fill their grime-hating hearts with glee. At www.robot-shop.ca (this seems to be an online only product), you can get the iRobot Roomba Scheduler Intelligent Vacuum 4230, the latest iRobot Roomba vacuum machine. At \$434.99, this dirt sucking wonder can be programmed to clean around your schedule, day or night. And, you can preset up to seven different cleaning schedules. When it's done its job, it even returns to the self-charging home base so it's fully powered and ready to go the next time it's scheduled to do your bidding. Now bring on the flying cars.



SHADETUNES

With every passing month it gets more and more difficult to buy something that *doesn't* come with a built in MP3 player. So why not sunglasses? Not just any sunglasses either. Oakleys. Oakley has taken to marketing their new line of specs as "wearable electronics", and the Thump Pro is the third edition of Oakley MP3 integrated eyewear. Since there are no wires, it's perfect for athletes (it was actually, or so they say, engineered for sport training), and for people who are just sick of getting tangled in the wires of their portable music players. And don't worry, it doesn't look like you're wearing an MP3 player attached to your skull, (although surely that's now considered 'stylin' in some circles). The sleek, chic design means you won't have them without feeling like a tech-obsessed, Silicon Valley uber-nerd. There are different styles for both men and women. You can even have prescription lenses. Go pick up a pair for \$340 at Watch It! Stores (try the West Ed location at 484-2884, or 10544B-82 Ave. on Whyte Ave., 435-2824).



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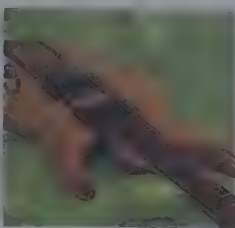
holiday gift guide

DREAM STEAM
For the coffee snob in your life who can never get the barista to whip them up the perfect to-their-satisfaction latte or Americano, a hot beverage maker might just make their day. Cozy up with a nice espresso, cappuccino, hot chocolate, or a cup of that fair trade coffee you picked up at Earth's General Store. It'll be like having your own little Euro-café in your kitchen. Pick up the Tassimo Hot Beverage Maker for \$169.99 (Future Shop at the Terra Lora Shopping Centre, 9560-170 St., 438-4590), or the Pro Line Series Espresso Machine from KitchenAid for \$1299.99 (www.kitchenaid.ca). After all, nothing says sophistication like drinking a home-brewed espresso in your hand crafted antique chair.



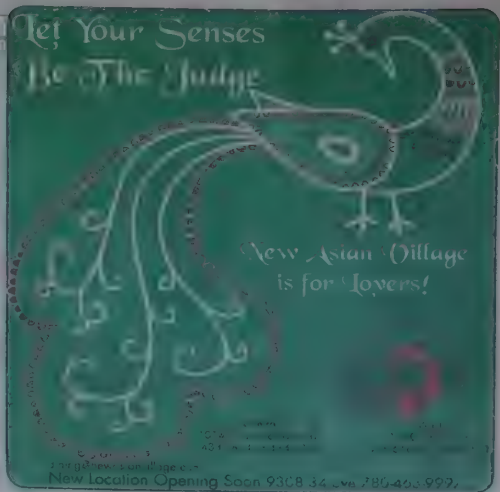
THICK 'N' DELICIOUS
Since everything '80s is big again, why not fondue? (Possibly because fondue is more 70s than '80s, but anyhow...) Another good fancy kitchen gadget for the entertainer or the chocoholic is an eye-catching chocolate fondue fountain. Even the cheaper versions look high-end, which makes you look good. Sears has the Charlescraft Nostalgia Chocolate Fondue Fountain for only \$84.99.

ANALOG REVOLUTION
You want them to love you. You want them to think you're cool. Then don't buy them a new iPod. You don't want them to be just another white-budded-lookin' digital music zombie, do you? For the music lover in your life, get the real thing. Smart Music Inc. (www.smartmusic.ca, Mainstreet Shopping Centre, 6466-28 Ave., 436-1002) in Edmonton offers electric guitar packages starting at \$249.99, bass guitar packages starting at \$299.99, as well as a wide range of other instruments. If they're a beginner, (or if they just need a lot of practice), Smart Music Inc. also offers lessons from guitar to clarinet. If you'd like something a little more traditional, Giovanni Yamaha Music Inc. in the West Edmonton Mall (www.giovanniyamamahmusic.com) sells Yamaha Grand Pianos. Or browse Don's Piano Warehouse in St. Albert (www.donspiano.ab.ca, 8 Riel Dr., St. Albert, 459-5525) for a selection of beautiful pianos, new and used.



LEGO THAT OBEYS
For the kid in you, or just for your kid, the LEGO Mindstorms NXT takes LEGO to a whole new level of fun. LEGO claims it takes as little as 30 minutes to build the smartest, strongest and most advanced LEGO robot ever. You can build vehicle, animal or humanoid robots that obey your every command. Well, maybe not every. That could be dangerous. But it's still really cool. It's able to detect different colours and intensities, and it can respond to sound patterns and tones. Programming software is available for both PC and Macintosh, and the Bluetooth support lets you command your robot from your mobile phone. You can get it in French or English for \$347.99 from robotshop.ca, or you can pick one up at a Toys "R" Us (try 3945 Calgary Trail, 944-9424, or 13029-97 St, 944-9404) or even a Sears near you (the West Ed Mall, 444-1450, or 11100-51 St., 432-9459).

BIG ENOUGH TO BE SMALL
Batter old camcorders are for nerds. A quality camera like the Canon High Definition MiniDV Camcorder (HV10) will set you back about \$1500, but this snazzy little thing is your dad's gigantic old family video recorder. Canon claims this little thing is the world's smallest HDV camcorder. But quality is still big, as Canon promises the ultimate in HD video and digital photo quality to ensure maximum detail and superior colour reproduction. Of course if you haven't already picked one up, you probably don't know what that means. All you need to know is: people laugh at your big-ass old camcorder. So run to Future Shop (Terra Lora Shopping Centre, 9560-170 St., 438-4590).



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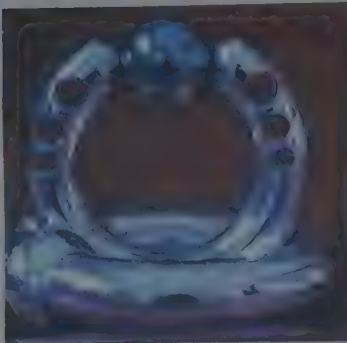
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UNFRAGGLING ROCKS

Nothing says I love you (or I love myself) like a relaxing day at the spa. Choose one of Edmonton's day spas for a day of pampering and rejuvenation during the stressful holiday season. Places like Euro Diva Day Spa, A Matter of Body Works, Spa Opus, and Swizzlesticks Spa & Salon offer a selection of services and spa packages. There are also packages for men to relax and refresh; Euro Diva Day Spa (126 9704-39 Ave., 430-8066) offers spa packages for him, her, or both. Like the Diva Duo Spa Package, four hours of bliss for only \$390. For her: a Honey Diva Ginger Citrus Scrub, a Euro Diva Customized Facial, and a Luxury Pedicure. For him: a 60 minute massage, an Ultra Cleansing Men's Facial, and a Euro-Man Pedicure. Because no European man would be caught dead without a pedicure, right?



FLASH IN YOU

For body piercing, you can also spoil yourself or that special someone with a handcrafted piece of jewellery. Independently owned Metalix Inc. (www.metalixinc.ca, 12905-58 St., 472-1722) in Edmonton offers gold or silver pieces designed by master goldsmith/silversmith Mimer's studio, as well as surgical stainless steel, titanium and acrylic designs by her son, David Curcio (who is also the manager). Metalix also get custom pieces made if you can't find what you're looking for (however, custom orders must be made before December 12 for it to be ready for the holidays).



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HIGH-END CUDDLY

Stay home on the sofa with your someone special. But get them a beautiful cashmere scarf, sweater or robe. Not for them, mind you, but so that your loved one makes for a softer pillow on those wintry nights in front of the TV, or the fireplace, or that weird channel that plays a fireplace on your TV (it's warm if you put your hands on top of the set). Namaste (www.namasteclothing.ca) is an online Edmonton based company that sells sweaters, wraps, shawls and specialty items in either 100 per cent Pashmina Cashmere, 200 per cent silk, or a blend of 70 per cent Pashmina and 30 per cent silk. Or other retail stores sell quality cashmere products you're sure to love. And it's not just for women. Men too will love the feel and warmth of a nice cashmere scarf or sweater. Even if they don't admit it.




the new cat in the urban jungle

Wild Africa

the cream of cream house

my look

Erica Sorrell

Occupation: Executive Assistant

Where: Sunterra Cellar (Commerce Place—10150 Jasper Ave.)

Style: "I like to create and try new looks. I find that clothes are an expression of how you feel, and I am full of life and energy. I try to be daring, and just like my personality, I like to make an impact and capture attention."

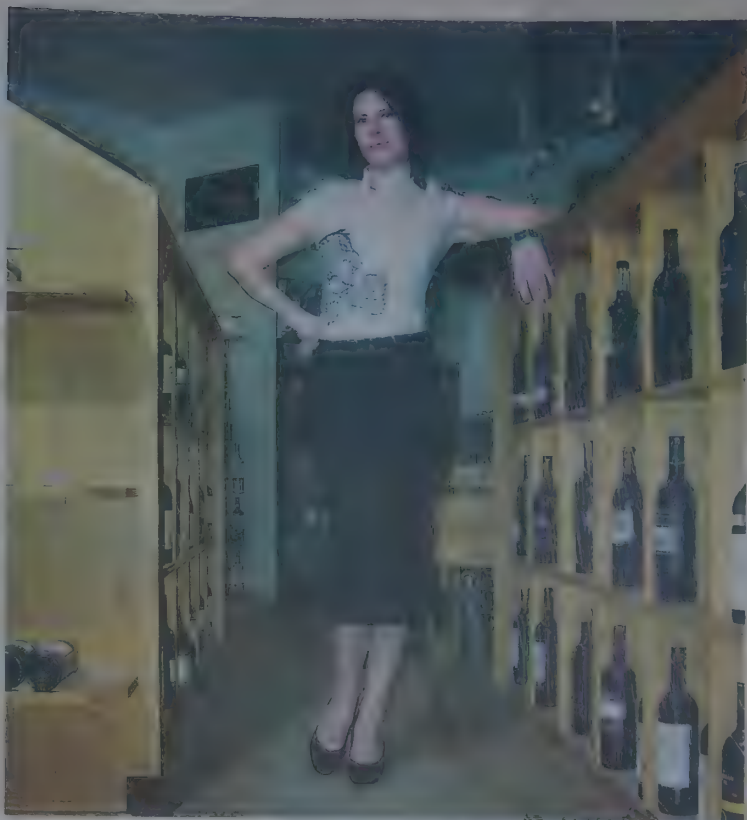
Hair: "My Aunt Marghie at Icon Hair Architecture (Manulife Place—10150 Jasper Ave., 426-1021)."

Wearing: "My pumps are Donna Karans bought from her store in Palm Springs. I was drawn to them due to their Bettie Page appeal. She is my personal icon. The skirt and top are both LAMB, and I'm wearing Theory tank top underneath, which are all from Holt Renfrew (10180-101st St., 425-5300). I love pencil skirts for their slimming abilities. I just find the fit extremely flattering. The top is a bit different from other things that I own. It can be seen as quite conservative, but the panther adds just the right touch. Melissa at Holt's picked this outfit for me; she's just fantastic. All my jewellery were gifts from family and friends. It's a nice daily reminder of how dear they are to me."

Info: "Basically I'm just into new experiences, but I always have time for my friends."

Not Into: "Stupid people, rude people, random whistling, and bad manners. I don't like when people snap their bubble gum, and I can't stand it when people click their pen caps. Really I could go on all day."

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MOD SQUAD

Forget
The Stereotypes:
Edmonton Is
The Next
Generation Folk

Samantha Schultz Photo by Jeffrey Green

story Fish Griwkowsky

Accidentally and intentionally, movements of youth are manipulated by the status quo. When we're young, the most outstanding of us itch with loathing or longing when meeting the establishment spurring the best of rebels and embracers to emergent creativity

Excluding our monolithic sports community, Edmonton's folk music scene is easily this city's most visible from the higher atmosphere—quite literally as a teeming mass of squinters every August on Gallagher Park Hill. And as the boundaries of folk music expand by continuing to download from other genres global and urban, the scene becomes ever more attractive to that little slice of creative youth—the kids that don't run away to Vancouver and go punk, anyway

It's no surprise that Edmonton's Samantha Schultz is beaming when it comes to the encouragement she's gotten, and her enthusiasm is seriously heartwarming

Armed with a small demo EP of singer-songwriter acoustic songs, the local 15-year-old's been nominated for Young Performer of the Year in the upcoming Canadian Folk Music Awards

It turns out Schultz is one of three acts in that category hailing from around town, including wide-eyed fiddler Daniel Gervais and the roots-leaning country Vissia Sisters—all of them in their teens. The fact that three of five up-and-coming outfits are from the CFMA's host city could be considered pure coincidence, or, more accurately, the indirect result of an especially nurturing environment

"In terms of Edmonton," Schultz muses, "I think of a really supportive community. The folk clubs are great—really friendly people

Part of the reason so many young performers are from Edmonton is a result of access. Up to the age of 12, children are allowed into the Folk Festival for free. "I've seen it in my own daughter," he says. "You take them along till they're 12, and then they want to volunteer and they just keep going back."

— Roddy Campbell, founding CFMA organizer

CKUA, CBC. Without their help I wouldn't have been doing what I've been doing or writing what I've been writing. Without my parents, I literally wouldn't exist at all."

Her folks, who always encouraged her to write from the heart, were already plugged in "I wasn't sure of the genre of the music I was doing when I first started," Schultz says. "I just sort of fell into this community because I had so many family members that were already part of it. My mom, when she was younger, played the piano and sang. And my dad, when he was my age, tried to play the guitar. Now, I'm the one who does the music in this family, with my sister who does beautiful harmonies with me. It's really fun to have family jams.

"I do consider a large part of what I do to be folk music, but I also would classify it as blues, jazz, and soul."

Then she says something telling: "I'd like to appeal to a large number of people, not be pinned to one specific spot."

FOLK? What Folk?

Schultz's concerns here echo the reason the new CFMAs were created: ghetto-ization

Founding CFMA organizer Roddy Campbell, also editor of the locally-run, national roots magazine *Penguin Eggs*, explains: "About

three years ago the Junos announced they were going to reduce folk awards from two to one. I was outraged, as were a lot of people. If you really look at the Canadian music industry, the bedrock of it came from the folk tradition, people like Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, Bruce Cockburn, Ian and Sylvia."

Campbell wrote an editorial that started a fire. This would be an example of creative

discontent we were talking about at the beginning, upstart rebellion sparking like teenage-driven or not. Soon, Borealis Records co-founder Grit Laskin jumped into the fray and the two met in Toronto, drawing up their first battle plans.

The movement was rolling and, soon enough, the goal achieved.

Last year's inaugural awards show in Ottawa



Samantha Schultz playing for her mother Marie. Photo by Jeffrey Green

...a success. But Campbell really wanted to bring it home to what he calls "the folk music capital of Canada"—Edmonton.

"We didn't get funding last year and we don't this year, either," Campbell explains. "You have to be in existence for two years before you can apply for federal funding. Our budget was \$28,000 and we raised all that ourselves, solely to Grit's connections. But this year, we had a lot of local support, which has been brilliant: the Folk Festival, Stony Plain Records, the Northern Lights Folk Club, the Mill Moon Folk Club, the Arden." Now he's starting to sound like a nominee, but his gratitude is understandable.

Campbell defines what he calls keystones of this city's folk machinery. "Over the years, the Folk Fest has developed into the best one in North America, probably the world." Part of the reason so many young performers are from Edmonton is a result of access. Up to the age of 12, children are allowed into the Folk Festival for free. "I've seen it in my own daughter," he says. "You take them along till they're 12, and then they want to volunteer and they just keep going back."

"The event is part of it, but they love the music," continues Campbell. "My daughter Meghan—she wouldn't miss it. You get them in at an early age and they just keep coming back."

SCHOOL'S IN

Schooling is also instrumental, and plays a key role in shaping the younger crop of folk artists coming out of Edmonton.

"[Victoria Composite High School] is one of the best atmospheres to hone your craft," says Schultz. "There's a wide range of arts there, pretty much everything. It's so welcoming and you can be who you are in that school. You can show your individuality."

"When I was 12 I took guitar lessons for nine months because I'd been wanting to, and it was

either musical theatre or guitar. The thought of getting up there and performing kind of gave me a rush. I got started at open stages around the city. But I won't be playing bars for another three years," she laughs.

Other nominees from the area include Shannon Johnson from the McDades, aboriginal singer Laura Vinson and, of course, Corb Lund, who's excited at the possibility of an awards sweep after picking up Juno and CCMA trophies.

From Austin, Lund says, "Being recognized for folk music accomplishment is especially cool to me because along with being acoustic country flavoured music, my lyrical content deals with rural life—honest lyrics about real people's lives, and not just their love lives, are important."

Including a wide range of nominees was a real goal for the organizers, especially in terms of new music. Because, bottom line, the awards are to promote not just culture, but also the careers of the players involved. Not to mention, Campbell implies, the reputation of folk music itself.

Following reportage of festivals across the country, Campbell bemoans the image of some old hippy dancing alone.

"There is that cliché that folk music is nothing but music played on guitars by people from the '60s, protesting Vietnam. That was 40 years ago! The music has moved on so far: beats and bagpipes, modern trance and dance, Inuit throat singing, samples... Everything to keep the music alive and make it absolutely modern."

"Because if you don't do that the music becomes a museum piece to be trod out on May Day. But people like the Duhks and the Be Good Tanyas are going on to play the biggest festivals in Europe. Thanks largely to newer acts, folk in Canada is the last thing from dead."



The Vassie Sisters. Alexandra, top, Alexandra, on right, and Andrea Vassie. Photo Supplied

"The thought of getting up there and performing kind of gave me a rush. I got started at open stages around the city. But I won't be playing bars for another three years," she laughs. — Samantha Schultz

EDMONTON FOLK MUSIC AWARDS

Sat, Dec 10, Myer Horowitz Theatre (U of A), 7:30 pm, Info: 451-8000 or www.ticketmaster.com, \$42.50

Kicks At A Glance

A quick entertainment guide for the CFMA-goer

If you happen to be from out of town looking for a good place to drink, or even if you're just wondering what's specifically going on with the CFMAs, here are some recommended suggestions, listed alphabetically.

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE

Through the weekend nights are higher on the jaded and crowded, the student/hoser-filled Dog is still the best bar in town—and an unlikely place to be murdered. It's also run by a real Leprechaun. Emerging artist nominee **David Myles** is playing Saturday afternoon at 4 pm.

BLUE CHAIR CAFÉ

Neighbourhoody with odd decor, the Blue Chair is filled by **Connie Kaldor** Friday and Saturday—so you may have to find something else to eat.

COMMERCIAL HOTEL; BLUES ON WHYTE Gritty and underwear barnacles, the aromatic cavern under the Commercial Hotel is proudly working-class. This week featuring **Brent Parkin** with the **Hardcore Blues Band**. A wicked, true-life atmosphere down to the adjacent VIT den.

FESTIVAL PLACE

A gig-specific venue slightly out of town, combinations of the **McDades** aptly raise the festival egg nog here Friday, while best Anglais songwriter nominee **Sarah Noni Metzner** opens for **Jack Semple** on Saturday.

SIDETRACK CAFÉ

While the debate rages on about the statistical variances between new Track and old, head to the bar and drink several Hoegaardens to numb out the nerds. The pleasant **Amy Seeley** plays on Friday, the ubiquitous **McDades** on Saturday.

STRATHCONA HOTEL

Former hangout to Joe Clark, W.P. Kinsella, and Casmo the homeless West Edmonton Mall mascot, if you don't like the Strath's Depression-era atmosphere, just get the hell out of our city.



The Be Good Tanyas. Photo Supplied

At a glance, here's the general concert scene this weekend as well.

Friday:

The Be Good Tanyas, Ora Cogan - Myer Horowitz Theatre
Amy Seeley, Easy Life Club, F&M, Micah Stevens - Sidetrack Café
Connie Kaldor - Blue Chair Café

Saturday:

Deadcity Serpents, PIND, The Blame Its - Econolodge
Nathan, The Wheat Pool, The Plain Dealers - Powerplant
The McDades - Sidetrack Café
Dudley Dawson, Blacked Out, Road To Nowhere - Strathcona Room
David Myles - Black Dog Freehouse

Connie Kaldor - Blue Chair Café
Canadian Folk Music Awards Mixer featuring Ben Spencer and guests - Velvet Underground

Sunday:

Canadian Folk Music Awards Gala - Myer Horowitz Theatre

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YOU CAN COUNT A COUPLE MORE weeks of sleeps until Christmas Day, but the ESO is spreading holiday cheer all month.

Orchestra members and staff have no less than five different concerts to plan for until Christmas but it's just par for the course as far as William Dimmer, assistant principal trumpet of the orchestra, is concerned.

"It keeps a musician busy. There are more rehearsals, concerts, and a lot of our members play other concerts outside of the ESO at this time of the year."

Yet the hectic pace never rouses up a spirit of humbug. "At the risk of sounding romantic about it," says a jovial, somewhat Santa-esque Dimmer before pausing. "There's a special mood at this time of year when things are going on. You talk to other orchestra members who've played these songs a million times. But no one gets tired of it."

A selection of the season's favourites will be featured in concerts from tonight (Thu, Dec 7) through Saturday (Dec 9). Tonight's concert, *Christmas Around The World*, features classic classical repertoire for the season including Corelli's "Christmas Concerto," Gounod's transcription of Bach's "Ave Maria" and "Carol Of The Bells."

Guest conductor John Morris Russell will stick around to conduct the weekend's Pops program, *Christmas-time with the ESO*, warming your heart with standards for the season accompanied by Da Camera Singers, Cantillon Choir, and the marvelous voice of Canadian crooner Denzal Sinclair.

"I really love Denzal Sinclair," enthuses Dimmer, who says he marveled at his talent during last season's Gershwin concert. "The warmth you see on stage is exactly who he is, just a down-to-earth, Canadian boy."

Christmas is also jazzy business for Holly Cole (who returns on December 12th for a concert that's already almost sold out) and for local singer Sheri Somerville who'll

be featured in Dec 18th's ESO Community Christmas Concert running a selection of carols from "Joy To The World" through "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer," and "Deck The Halls."

But, for the ESO, the true holiday tradition is their performance of Handel's "Messiah." Bill Edkins will be in town for the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd to bounce it out

"There's a special mood at this time of year when things are going on. You talk to other orchestra members who've played these songs a million times. But no one gets tired of it."

WILLIAM DIMMER

Baroque style, conducting directly from the harpsichord

"It's always interesting because every time you have a different conductor, it gets a slightly different perspective," says Dimmer who never tires of the piece. "It's 'The Messiah' is like a Lamborghini. No matter how many times you go for a drive in it, it's still cool. I've played it a gazillion times and it's still a favourite."

"My family," replies Dimmer when asked what he enjoys the most about Christmas. "My family growing up now and there's always time for relaxing, just really enjoying the spirit of Christmas and playing games in the snow."

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Blood Brothers sharpen up their *Machetes*

THE BLOOD BROTHERS

By And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead.
Dec 12, Edmonton Events Centre (WEM).
Info: 451-8000 or www.ticketmaster.ca.

FROM THEIR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS performing in a three-car garage in the late '90s to playing for thousands of raved fans worldwide, Seattle's Blood Brothers are a constantly evolving force in the punk community. Releasing their first two albums through famed post-hardcore labels Blood and Nature and Three-One-G, the brothers soon found themselves at the forefront of a changing music scene, stuck somewhere between hardcore, thrash, and punk.

For their major label debut, 2003's *Piano Island, Burn*, the band enlisted producer Ross "the godfather of nu-metal" Robinson, famed for his work with Limp Bizkit, Korn, and Vanilla Ice. The album won a hit, winning praise from former critics and girl-pants-wearers alike, and soon the band were touring with fellow teen-pleasers like The Used, AFI, and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. Following the collapse of the band's direct label, the band found a new home with V2 records, who released the album *Crimes* in 2004.

Currently the band is on tour supporting their newest offering, *Young Machetes*, the band's fifth full-length record on the label.

"The ideology behind the band hasn't changed, but the way we operate kind of has," says bass player Morgan Henderson. "When we were on Three-One-G solely, we would drive down to San Diego and roll out our sleeping bags on their floor, and that was a fine and great way to tour—just the five of us. Now we have people who help us out every day, a sound guy, someone to take care of the monitors, a tour manager, someone to look after the income..."

Pretty impressive for a band who five years ago was known only to the hippest of hipsters, and with the success of the *Young Machetes*, the band is poised to be one of the biggest names in modern hardcore. Produced by John Goodmanson (Soundgarden, Death Cab For Cutie, Blonde Redhead) and Guy Picciotto (Rites of Spring, and founding member of DC post-punks Fugazi), *Machetes* is a start-to-finish steamer of screamy sass, explosive rhythms, and spazzed-out guitar.

"We just wanted to make a record we'd be really happy with," says Henderson of the new album. "I guess it's more groove oriented, with lots of jazz influence and heavy rhythmic parts." It's a far cry from their earlier indie-label releases. "There was a few new instruments I wanted to play," says Henderson, who also acts as

one of the Brothers' part-time synthesizer players.

"I got to use some different instruments too, like the upright bass and the B-flat clarinet."

If this is beginning to sound a bit like a ninth-grade music recital, fear not: for the Blood Brothers are known to put on one of the most frantic and exciting live shows around.

"The music we like to play has a real physicality to it, it's not something we think about, it just comes out when we're performing," says Henderson of

the group's notorious stage show. Regardless of the band's intentions, fans will be lining up in droves for a guitar flingin', crowd surfin' good time.

TRAVIS SARGENT

BAND OF MACHINES

LIKE EDMONTON, SEATTLE IS INFAMOUS for its incestuous music scene.

The Blood Brothers' family tree is a tall and twisted one, and here are a few groups some of the Brothers have done time in.

Waxwing:

Post-hardcore project of Seattle indie rocker Rocky Vololoto, (brother to Brothers guitarist Cody Vololoto), Waxwing combined elements of punk, metal, and rock. Featuring Cody on guitar, Waxwing released a 7" EP and three full-lengths, the latest being 2002's *Nobody Can Take What Everybody Owns*.

Head Wound City:

Thrash, trashy side project of Blood Brothers alumni Jordan Blilie and Cody Vololoto. The blast-beat friendly frenzy of Head Wound City also features Nick Zinner of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, as well as Justin Pearson and Gabe Serbian from the Locusts, and released their self-titled debut in 2005.

The Vogue/Soiled Doves:

Emerging in the late '90s as new wave rockers The Vogue, a lineup change in 2001 prompted the band to change their name to Soiled Doves, a euphemism for the lusty ladies of the Old West. After recording the eight-song *Soiled Life* album, vocalist Johnny Whitney's commitments with the Blood Brothers forced him to leave the band, who later morphed into GSL now-wavers the Chromatics.

The Blood Brothers "Young Machetes"



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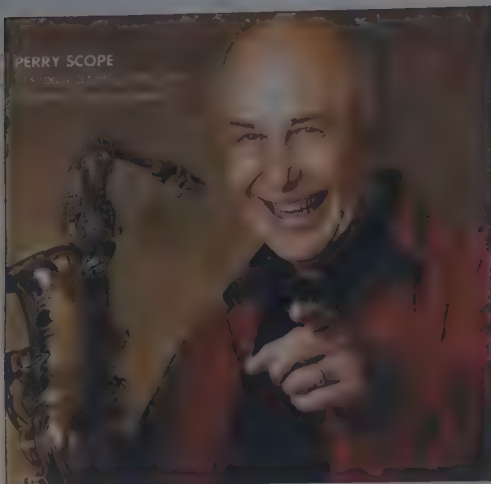
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"BILL MAYS IS REALLY ONE OF THE world's great jazz pianists and arrangers," asserts P.J. Perry, arguably Canada's best jazz saxophonist. The affable and modest jazz veteran was extolling the talents of Mays, who arranged all of the music for the upcoming Western Canadian tour of *A Jazzy Nutcracker Suite*. The delightful dose of holiday favourites, dipped in jazz and presented by some of the best players on the scene, should be well rehearsed after spending some 10 days on the road before it takes to the stage at the Arden Theatre.

"We're all getting into a couple of vehicles for shows at Salt Spring

Island, Victoria, Nanaimo, WI Vancouver, Vernon, and Fairmont. We get a day off before making our way to St. Albert.

That show should be great as we are enlisting some extra players including Jack Stafford on tenor and clarinet and Perry White on baritone." Those players will join the star line up of Bill Mays on piano, Perry playing soprano sax and flugel, bassist Neil Swainson and drummer Terry Clarke.

It's a repeat performance of sorts for the *Jazzy Nutcracker*, a pet project of Perry since its inception in 2001. "Our first show was at the Cleve Gould in Toronto in 2001," recalls Perry, "and we did our last real cross-Canada tour in 2003, which included a show at the Winspear."

While the concept may be a repeat, there is plenty of new material.

"Bill [Mays] has arranged his own 'Peace Waltz' for us. We've added a lot of very accessible melodies including 'Santa Claus Is Coming to Town,' 'Silver Bells,' 'Claire de Lune,' 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' and a Charlie Parker medley that includes 'Scrapple From the Apple'."

"It's a concert that I'm very excited to be part of," continues Perry. "It's incredibly well arranged thanks to Bill and, in my opinion, it's really a family show, not 'out there' in a jazz sense at all."

In addition to the *Nutcracker*, Perry has a number of other projects on the go. "I just got back from an star Canadian jazz concert, two nights with Oliver Jones, Michel Donato, and Terry Clarke. We played Montreal one night and Vancouver the next and were recorded by the CBC."

"I'm also in the process of negotiating a six-month Canadian tour in support of my new disc."

Perry feels that *Trio* is his best work to date. The independent release features 11 tracks, four of which are originals. The remaining pieces survey the songbooks of Cole Porter, Charlie Parker, The Heath Brothers, Lucky Thompson, and Monk, among others.

Recorded at Ritchie United Church in September of last year, the recording is sonically pleasing, with a great blend of ballads and up-tempo numbers. Perry, along with his rhythm section of Reg Shwager on guitar and bassist Neil Swainson, has hit the jazz bull's eye with this one. Check it out at www.pjperry.com.

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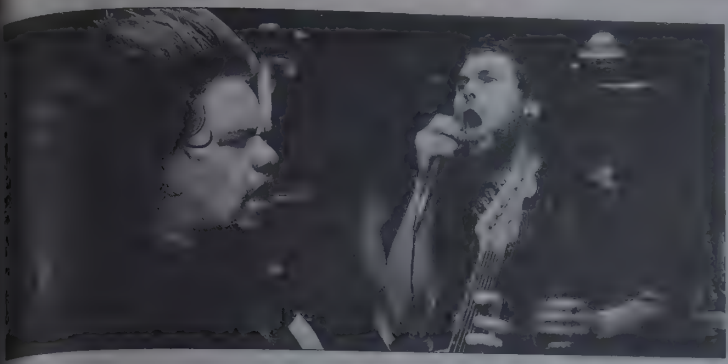
**MOUNTAIN
EQUIPMENT
CO-OP**

JAZZ NOTES

THE LEGENDARY MILES JOHNSON IS THE TITLE of the new disc being launched at the Northbird Suite this weekend (Dec 8 and 9) by Edmonton's own keyboard ace, Grant G. Guest, and vocalist, harmonica player, and guitarist Raoul Bhaneja. out of Toronto. The title refers not to an actual person, but to the musical persona the two have created.

Bhaneja, who has released two discs of jump and swing material with his group, Raoul and the Big Time, collaborated with Guest to bring this new recording of jazz, swing, and blues together.

Bhaneja and Guest will perform one set as a duo before calling drummer and guitarist Clayton Sample, and bassist Brzezicki up to the stage to join them.



Catch them before they're dead

Dead City Serpents shed their skins

DEAD CITY SERPENTS EP RELEASE
A. AND, The Blame Its, Sat, Dec 9,
10209-100 Ave.)

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS NO BAND in Edmonton has had as much of a reputation for self-destructive, ear-splitting, and intense live shows as the Dead City Serpents: in one particularly legendary "Serpents show-cas"—occurring in no other place than frontman Derek Porritt's garage—the small crowd watched Porritt as Porritt smashed bottles over his head, smashed windows with his bare fists, and sprayed himself in the face with black spray paint while his bandmates banged out scabrous rock 'n' roll behind him.

At the same time, it's interesting about the Dead City Serpents' willingness to put their bodies on the line for a performance is the fact that their off-stage/onstage lives are like night and day—Porritt himself is the top king agent for Edmonton's Avenue Skatepark, and he's the proud father of one—but that hasn't stopped them from delivering earth-shattering live shows which recall some of the most notorious aspects of early Iggy and the Stooges.

The band's upcoming EP, *Zombie Thrash*, is a prime example of the difficulty that some punk rock bands have when cutting records: how does a band who's defined by their concert transfer the energy from the

live setting onto wax? For the Dead City Serpents, the answer was simple: record live off the floor, and don't overdub anything. The result is a punk rock opus that succeeds in serving as an example of the band's no-holds barred volume and destructive attitude.

"We wanted to capture the energy we put across live on record," says Dean Watson, who provides the trebly guitar onslaught for the Serpents.

"Mostly, we weren't really sure what we were going to do with it. We weren't even sure if we were going to release it at all."

The EP is three years in the making—a lifetime for some local bands—and the time spent out of the studio was used to hone the Serpents' aggressive, intense, and uninhibited live show. It worked: they've become one of Edmonton's prime must-see bands based solely on their reputation for insanity.

"We try to be pretty progressive in our personal lives," Watson confesses. "The live show is our release. Our raging against who we are is almost like pure freedom, as opposed to 'alter-egos.'"

You can certainly assume that the band embodies a kind of Jekyll and Hyde mentality, but Watson assures that it's much more less conceptualized than that: the intensity of a performance is a much more natural,

emotional creation than a systematic process.

"We pretty much get carried away by the music when we play," Watson admits. "There's the time up to when we play, and then the time after; but when we play is almost like a blackout."

But certainly, despite the more naturalistic tendencies to "freak out" when a band plays, there's probably something attracting the performer to take his performance to the limit isn't that exactly what rock 'n' roll has been defined by?

"I don't think every performer has to be extreme," Watson rebuts. "I think every performer should be 100% what they are. I hate art that's contrived, or when somebody's trying to put a spin on something to make it cool or more desirable, that's what art should not be. Art should be 100% of the artist coming through, and everyone doesn't have to be crazy, as long as they're doing what they feel is pure art then you can't really say anything."

In this phase of their three-year existence, the Serpents' pace has seemed to slow down, compared to the almost weekly live performances of their "infancy."

"We've just been crazy busy the last little while," Watson says. "When we first started, we played such a crazy amount of shows in such a short time that we wanted to step back and experience life instead of just 'play, play, play.' As long as we have an outlet to make music we'll be doing it."

EAMON MCGRATH

Caveman rock

Les Georges Leningrad go tribal

LES GEORGES LENINGRAD
A. and, The Blame Its, Sat, Dec 9, 10209-100 Ave.)

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? MONTREAL has splintered off into two camps: the single-pop do-gooders (Arcade Fire) and the purveyors of new no-wave (AIDS Wolf), and through the middle of this fork in the road come Les Georges Leningrad and Duchess Says.

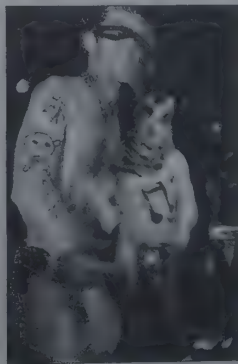
Whether the lyrics are French or simply unintelligible, both of these acts are interested in alienating their audience (in the best way possible) while merely enjoying themselves in the process.

Duchess Says is the more conventional of the two, with lead singer Annie-Claude staring down the crowd types from her perch on top of the monitors. She's an enter-

taining front-woman, screeching in rhythmic union with jerky synths and snare hits and her francophone diction is charming between songs. Unfortunately, on this bill, they were obviously out-grooved with a sound more influenced by Captain Beefheart than the Slits.

Les Georges Leningrad opened with military barks from their gimp-like keyboardist (rocking fake tattoos and a masquerade face-piece) and led to an introduction to their leader Poney P. She's down with Karen O's coif and Peaches' wardrobe, maybe, but her post-hardcore electro scream act lends itself closer to ESG and more modern acts like blog darlings CSS.

The live take on the standout "Sponsorships" was blisteringly hot, faster and more explosive than on record—quite a rare feat. The highlight of the set was a prepared conversation where they mimed along to playback. The culmination of the



convo (which played on the band's harsh accents and regionalism) was an introduction to their most popular track "Supadoopa," completely igniting a very packed party pit. So maybe the moral here is it doesn't quite matter if you can understand it, just as long as it gets you excited.

ROLLIE PEMBERTON



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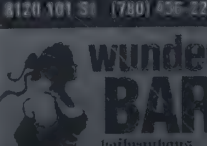
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GRAHAM GUEST & RAOUL BHANEJA CD RELEASE

cd reviews



BONOBO
Days To Come
(Nonesuch)
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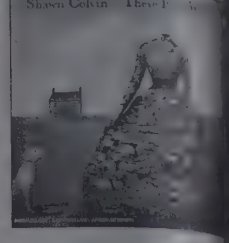
THE ROLLING STONES
Truth and Lies DVD
(Eagle Rock)
★★★★



INCUBUS
Light Grenades
(Epitaph)
★★★★



JAY-Z
Kingdom Come
(Def Jam/Roc-A-Fella)
★★★★



SHAWN COLVIN
These Four Walls
(Nonesuch)
★★★★

PLUCKED STRINGS OPEN DAYS TO COME'S title track and it's wonderful to find that Bonobo has a new friend. Vocalist Baike lays down her marvelous chops that have a Billie Holiday/Blossom Dearie warmth to them, and Bonobo is only more than willing to wrap them in suitably comfortable four-soul and psychedelia.

It's a great number but as you roll through the album the tracks featuring Baike find Bonobo constrained in her limited but lovely range. "The Fever," "Nightlife," and "Walk In The Sky" don't do anything to distinguish themselves from each other or from most lounge-y down-tempo. They sound even thinner on the bonus disc of instrumentals. His collaboration with fellow Ninja Tune bluesman Fink is better in the way it gets a little more despondent with a bluesy style.

However, Bonobo does break out of his [w] with some outstanding new instrumentals. "Ketto" is a wonderful, atmospheric tango that gets mucked up with some grimy bass lines. "On Your Mark" cuts through you with wonderful cello stabs and a rolling, thunderous break, while "Recurring" gently finishes off his latest work.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

GAMME SHELTER IT AIN'T. IN FACT, GIVEN ITS sensational title, *Truth and Lies* is a rather dry affair. The film glazes over some of the most exciting and scandalous events in the band's 40-plus year history, hardly scratching the surface of original guitarist Brian Jones' mysterious drowning death in 1969, or the tragic events of the Altamont Free Concert that same year, in which 18-year-old Meredith Hunter was killed by Hell's Angels hired by the band as security.

Another drawback to this unlicensed documentary is the complete lack of original Stones music throughout, and at almost 90 minutes running time, *Truth and Lies* begins to feel a bit like eating a sandwich without the meat. The most interesting moments captured on the DVD can be found in the special features, and include a short film released after a series of high-profile drug busts, intended to show a lighter side of the band and shake their bad-boy image. A dull but informative retrospective of a great group, this dinky doc would likely be better suited as an hour-long television program.

TRAVIS SARGENT

THE FIVE SCRAWNY, FASHIONABLE gentlemen on the back of *Light Grenades* presumably sat down at an antique table—with a bong, wearing housecoats, no doubt—and brainstormed a thousand ideas that could possibly make up their new record: "We need to have some... quiet songs... and... some loud ones... duuuuuude."

And it's probably about then that the brainstorming stopped and the members of Incubus just sat there in silence with dry-mouthed and dilated pupils, because that's about as far as this record is willing to go. *Light Grenades* opens with a dreamy, cerebral number ("Quicksand") but then—as is all that would be expected of Incubus here—the record goes on to pummel you with over-compressed, over-produced, and over-templated art-prog-metal-jazz-funk numbers against your will. Incubus is clearly one of those bands that is totally into "breaking rules" and "not being constrained by the forces of genre" which comes down to nothing more than unintelligible stoner talk, and they need to know that anybody incorporating elements of rocksteady into a metal song ("Anna Molly") just for the sake of being "unclassifiable" only induces cringes and headaches.

EAMON MCGRATH

SHAWN CARTER IS DEF JAM PRESIDENT, Havitt Packard advert star, and Beyoncé's boyfriend (allegedly—they won't admit it in print). Unfortunately, while preparing his retirement breaker *Kingdom Come*, he forgot that he also happened to be Jay-Z: one of the best rappers alive. But then again, things change. The old Jigga would've never considered a beat like "Dig A Hole," with its Casio horns and bored-sounding synth washes, worthy of being on one of his records. Same with the jittery, self-impressed Neptunes disaster "Anything."

In fact, most of these mid-life crisis anthems appear to have incredibly low production values, besides the three Just Blaze-produced pieces (including a completely visionary flip of Rick James' "Superfreak"). That isn't to say our emcee doesn't rap on the mic, it's just hard to listen to the words if you have to tune out the music. The album stands out as "Beach Chair," produced by Coldplay's Chris Martin, with its icy synths and strings, dark drums, and Carter's Slug-like cadence. THE HIGHLIGHT OF A JAY-Z ALBUM IS A COLDPLAY SONG. Things like this make it easy for me to say this is his worst album outside of Vol. 2: Hard Knock Life.

ROLLIE PEMBERTON

FOR HER FIRST ALBUM OF ORIGINAL MATERIAL since 2001's *Whole New You*, Colvin teamed up with long-time collaborator and Leventhal to produce a mature and engaging set of plugged-in folk-rock.

The catchy, four-minute pop-folk songs like "Fill Me Up" and "Let a Slide" clearly designed for radio-friendliness, Colvin is too talented a musician to slip into yawn-inducing elevator muzak at any point. And with the southern-tinged sounds of the mandolin and lap steel finding their way in, as well, her sound is too rich and unusual to stand out.

Though her voice is melodic and at times quite soothing, Colvin still has a never-ending edge from years of touring—not to mention a career-halting vocal nod injury early on. This toughness is nowhere more apparent than on "Tuff Kid," a testament to her few younger years, as well as the title track, which concerns death, old age, and memory.

The 50-year-old singer-songwriter still has lots of life left in her, however, and if "Cross the Road" and if this album is any indication, she can still rock too.

ADAM CAULFIELD

Thursday: Bob Lanois, Snake Road, Cordova Bay.

The "other" Lanois sets his novice harp playing over brother Daniel's production and backing tracks, like a distracted Toots Thelma's rifting over the bare bones of Wrecking Ball.

Friday: Michael Armstrong, Rockabye Baby! Lullaby Renditions of The Cure, Baby Rock Records.

Aside from the bizarre initial appeal of hearing "Boys Don't Cry" set to glockenspiel, vibraphone, and mellotron in sleep inducing arrangements, it's a pretty thin premise—but then, of course, this isn't for the grown-ups, is it?



DAYS IN THE LIFE
TOM MURRAY

Extra points for "Friday I'm In Love," which sounds like Tortoise after a valium binge.

Saturday: Michael Donato, Pierre Leduc, Richard Provencal, Dejo Jazz, Justin Time. Solid Quebecois jazz, smartly played and programmed—Gerry Mulligan's "Line for Lyons," four Bill Evans tunes, one Duke Ellington, Miles Davis' "Blue and Green."

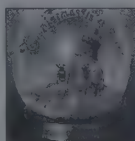
Sunday: JJ Cale & Eric Clapton, The Road to Escondido, Reprise. On the plus side, Mr. Clapton always



sounds better as the tasteful sideman weighing in, and here he's very respectful on Mr. Cale's low-key blues and blues-rock. On the negative side, both he and Mr. Cale are so low-key and relaxed that the album starts to feel like a new genre in the making: bluzzak. Exception, oddly enough—a lazy take of Brownie McGhee's "Sporting Life Blues."

Monday: Boots Collins, Christmas Is 4 Ever, Shout.

The album's pretty much just a goof, really—stock funk versions of Christmas standards that have been "bootified": "Jingle Bells" and "The Christmas Song" (here known as "Jingle Belz" and "Chestnutz"), "Winter FunkyLand" (take a



guess), some forgettable originals. It's funny, it's not so funny, it's funky, it's rote in too many places—still, bringing out Charlie Daniels for some fiddling on "Sleigh Ride" is pretty say, as is the smart deployment of fellow Funkadelic/JB employees Blackbyrd McKnight, Fred Wesley, Bobby Byrd and others.

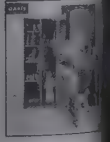
Tuesday: OST, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Walt Disney Records.

The soundtrack is well worth it—thumbs up to Danny Elfman—but the second disc on this reissue features cover songs from bands that should've left well enough alone: Marilyn Manson destroying "This Is Halloween," Fall Out Boy butchering "What's This?," Fiona Apple's clueless take on "Sally's Song."

Wednesday: Oasis, Stop the Clocks, Columbia.

The Darwinian world of Top 40 radio

weeded them out pretty quickly—they were only ever good for a few real hits, and anything after was just the usual prolonged fade out you see in over hyped bands with no company muscle. Cut away the dream there isn't much to justify a two CD greatest hits package—"Cigarettes & Alcohol," "Morning Glory," "Champagne Supernova" and "Wonderwall," maybe "Rock 'n' Roll Star" and "Don't Look Back in Anger," but from Definitely Maybe and What's the Story? Morning Glory? As slight as it may be, like "Wonderwall," but as Beatles rip-off artists they now reside in the middle of the pack—just below The Raspberries, above Klatu.



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Keeping *Summer* alive

Craddock brings his revamped hit to the Roxy stage

SUMMER OF MY AMAZING LUCK

Chris Craddock, based on the novel by Steven Toews. Directed by Bradley Moss. Starring Chris Craddock, Beth Graham, Caroline Livingstone. Until Dec 17, 8 pm, matinee 2 pm Sundays, Roxy Theatre (10708-100 St.) Tickets: Sun - Thurs \$23, \$18 students/seniors, Fri - Sat \$25 and \$19, available at 438-2440 or www.theatrenetwork.ca

CHRIS CRADDOCK IS QUICK TO STATE his show is not your old school theatrical remount.

But the Edmonton-based playwright is equally quick to explain how this revisionist of a play initially presented just last April (and the

ultimate winner of the 2004/2005 Sterling Award for Outstanding New Play) is not your old school theatrical remount.

"You have two kinds of remounts," says Craddock, "with the most well-known being the long-awaited revival of a classic show like when Stewart Lemoine remounted *Evelyn Strange*, a beloved show that audiences here hadn't seen in a while. The second kind of remount is the sort I'm more likely to do, which is to do more of a mop-up, representing a show for audiences that didn't get to see the show when it played before."

Summer of My Amazing Luck, which is running at the Roxy until

December 17th, hasn't really even gone away. The same production, starring author/actor Craddock with fellow cast members Beth Graham and Caroline Livingstone and show director Bradley Moss, has been touring the country since it's first presentation in Edmonton last year. It's only coming back because, as Craddock says, there's still an audience.

"You present a play like this and get a couple thousand people out to see it," he says, "but you also forget that there are a million people in Edmonton, which means that there are lots more people you can potentially reach with a work... sometimes Edmonton artists can be too cautious

with our plays when they just do that one production and then put it away."

Not that Craddock, the popular author and co-author of other hit shows like *Faithless*, *Moving Along* and *3... 2... 1*, has to make that much of a case for *Summer of My Amazing Luck* being an active work in progress.

After its initial run, the play's original, and only, cast presented the play in Ottawa's National Arts Centre as part of the recent Alberta Scene celebrations. More recently they performed well-received runs at Kelowna's Sunshine Theatre and at Winnipeg's Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Needless to say, the Winnipeg run was a runaway hit, given that the play is an adaptation of the beloved novel by Manitoba's own Miriam Toews.

Summer of My Amazing Luck, book and play, is set in the Manitoba capital and tells the story of Lucy (played by Graham), an initially out-of-sorts and seemingly out-of-luck young, single mom.

The plot of the high-energy work centres around a comic, life-altering road trip from Winnipeg to Colorado that she takes along with her eccentric best friend Lish (Livingstone).

Another example of how this isn't a static canonic play being dusted off for a new production is the new challenge Craddock is facing. While in Manitoba the playwright was approached by a Winnipeg publisher to publish the play, meaning that the playwright now has to sit down and finalize a text.

"I've never been good about writing down my stage instructions, and now have to put words down on the page. It's hard, but it's also exciting letting other people in on producing this show," he says of his devilish complicated production.

How complicated? Well, director Moss explains that not only do two of the show's three performers get to play some 25 characters, this simple and heart-warming show is wildly complicated at a technical level, calling for 200 lighting and as many sound cues.

Noting that the play has been in development since 2000, Moss says that this brand-new version of the show is noticeably different from its 2005 incarnation.

"We've cut eight minutes off of the first act, which seemed a bit long," he says.

Moss underlines that the cuts were both subtle and time-consuming to make, given the organic nature of Craddock's script and the tightness of the story.

"We tried to make the cut by taking out a single scene, like the 'Portuguese' scene, but discovered that approach didn't work. We ended up going through the whole act and being ruthless with the use of textual repetitions and overlaps."

GILBERT A. BOUCHARD

Of zen and performance art

Mile Zero puts the discipline in interdisciplinary

THE RED THREAD

Nov 7 - 9, 8 pm, The Landing Pad (#201, 102nd & 101 St.) Tickets: \$10 members/\$12 non-members, available by phone, 424-1573

GERRY MORITA, ARTISTIC Director of Mile Zero Dance, was programming a theme for the December Salon series slot, she went in her way to avoid angels and night bells in favour of something more commonplace and everyday. With the theme of *The Red Thread*, she hit the mark. On the one hand, a kind of Christian and Christmas spirit, but it's charged with a more other world of meaning. "I ended up being really loaded," Morita explains. "I didn't realize it at the time, but I've been doing more thinking about it, and it turns out the red thread is strongly tied to Zen

Buddhist ideas of sexuality, as in resisting the red thread, which was the garter on Chinese courtesans.

"So we have this event which is really supposed to be all about the senses, paired with the Buddhists—the kings of denial!" she laughs.

As part of the Ce N'est Pas Une Pirouette Salon series, *The Red Thread* evenings are designed to get artists and audiences out to see short, mixed media performance pieces and to try new things and respond to ideas in the beginning creative stages—stuff you wouldn't normally see on anyone's mainstage, what Morita describes as a "variety show sampler."

And, it's interdisciplinary on purpose, "to get dancers out there with the larger arts community. There's so much talent out there, but as cities

get bigger, artists and audiences alike become more clique-y."

Morita says she never knows just what to expect from a particular Salon until the first night goes up. Sometimes the Salon's theme serves as the jumping off point for the performances; often it's disregarded all together.

The Red Thread, emceed by Brenna Knapman, "a young hippie spoken word anarchist," features short performances from dance artist Katrina Smy, actor/dancer Jason Carmew, "music machine" TIPPY AGOGO, a video installation from Philip Jagger, and folk pop from Candace Burns, a high school singer/songwriter.

Saturday night includes Lance Maclean presenting performance art involving cars in the parking lot.



And for Friday, Gerry Morita will join bassist Tom Golub for a duet.

"Me and Tom have been working since September on a body of improv work—improvised fairytales," Morita explains. "We recently

received an Edmonton Arts Council grant to further develop that, trying to find the vocabulary between my movement and Tom's bass, a character he calls Bella—she's so sexy!"

SALENA KITTERINGHAM

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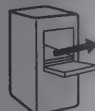
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BAR 4003-106 St., 434-4403 — Open stage 8:30 pm, hosted by The Poster Boys.

BAR 7450-82 Ave., 465-4046 — Open mic

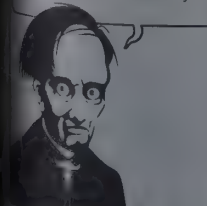
COFFEE CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 10354 Jasper Ave., 425-7730 — Open stage 8 pm, bring your own instruments, poetry, etc.

GLORIA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 13535-118 Ave. — Jam session 7 pm, hosted by the Wild House Old Time Fiddlers Association. Info: 432-457-9417

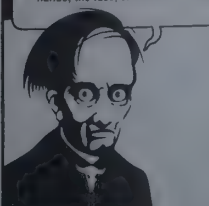
DUCK 10416-118 Ave., 479-7193 —

RED MEAT

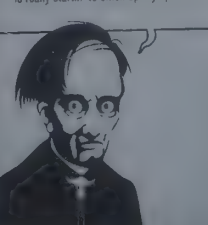
... since I started taking weekend art classes down at the community center, I really been studyin' the human body.



The curves and lines of the muscles and bones, the expressiveness of the hands, the face, and even the feet.



But most especially how that human body is really startin' to smell up my apartment



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Crowded 3 pm - 6 pm
NICKI DIAMONDS 8130 Gateway Blvd., 439-8006 — Open jam w/ Mike
O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB 10616-82 Ave., 414-4766 — Open Stage hosted by Joe Bird, 9 pm
WUNDERBAR 8120-101 St., 434-2286 — Open stage country jam/roar w/ Rob Jarvis

MONDAY

KINGSWAY LEGION 10425 Kingsway — 7 pm Capital City Jammers.
LB'S PUB 2141-41 St., St. Albert 460-9100 — Men Open stage w/ LB's house band
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860-57 Ave. — 7 pm Acoustic instrumental old time fiddle jam hosted by the Wild House Old Time Fiddlers Society
RIGOLETTO'S CAFE 10425 Kingsway — 7 pm
SIDETRACK CAFE 10425 Kingsway — 7 pm — Every Mon 7-10 pm, featuring Ben Spaulster, NK
THE DRUID SOUTH 2743 Calgary Trail, 465-6800 — Open Stage w/ Chris Winters, 9 pm

TUESDAY

BLIND PIG PUB St. Albert 418-6332 — Evening jam w/ Anna
LEGENDS PUB 6104-172 St., 481-2786 — Open jam night
SECOND CUP Churchill Square — 7:30 pm hosted by Ron
THE DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928 — Chris Winters hosts open stage at 9 pm
YARBIRD SUITE 10203 88 Ave., 432-0428 — Jam sessions 9 pm

WEDNESDAY

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL 7718-78 St., 432-4611 — Open mic jam, hosted by Lyle
BUD'S LOUNGE 10404-172 St., St. Albert 458-3826 — Open mic 8 pm
CAFE BRITT 1201-1201 Ave., 432-4611 — Every Wed 7-9 pm, hosted by Eric Miller
FIDDLER'S ROOST 8906-99 St. — 8 pm, Little Flower Open Stage w/ Brian Gregg \$2 cover doors 7:30 pm. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 429-3624
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860-57 Ave. — Bluegrass jam session 7:30 pm hosted by the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society, Info: 434-5997
ROSSDALE COMMUNITY HALL 10135-96 Ave. — Little Flower open stage 8-11 pm, hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: 429-3624 or www.littleflower.ca
ROYAL CANADIAN BRANCH 10220-156 St. — Open stage jam, 9 pm w/ The Dino Donnell Hot Five
THE LOCKER ROOM 10209-100 Ave. — Open Stage for comedians & musicians
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9020 McKinnay Ave., St. Albert, 458-0860 — Jam session 9 pm, hosted by Donny Floyd, 2

KARAOKE

ALBERT'S 9308-34 Ave. — Tue, 9 pm, Prosound Productions
B-STREET BAR 11818-111 Ave., 414-0545 — Wed - Sun w/ Brad Scott
BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE Continental Inn, 16625 Stony Pl. Rd., 484-7751 — Thu-Sat, Karaoke w/ Ed & Tara
BLIND PIG 32 St. Anne St., St. Albert 418-6332 — Karaoke every Wed, Thu & Fri
BLUE OULI 526 Saddleback Rd., 434-3124 — Fri & Sat
BO-DIDDLEY'S PUB & GRILL 4274-137 Ave., 476-1918 or 377-0219 — Thu w/ Mr Entertainment
BO-DIDDLEY'S PUB & GRILL SOUTH 23 Ave. & 66 St., Millwoods Centre — Thu, 9:30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment

BORDERLINE PUB 3226-82 St., 462-1888 — Thu - Sat, 9:30 pm - 1:30 am
BOSTON PIZZA BEVERLY 3303-118 Ave. — Sat 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
BOSTON PIZZA NAIT 10115 Princess Elizabeth Ave. — Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
BROTHERS PUB 101100 Granada Blvd. Shird Park Sun, 9:30 pm - 1:30 am
BUD'S LOUNGE Capilano Mall, 98 Ave. & 50 St. — Fri & Sat, 9 pm - 1:30 am w/ Mr Entertainment
BUD'S LOUNGE Landderry 66 St. & 137 Ave. — Fri, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
CASSELWOOD PUB 14620-50 St., 473-1010 — Wed, 9:30 pm - 1:30 am
CASTLEDOWN'S PUB 16753-100 St. — Tue 9 pm - 1 am, w/ Off Key Entertainment
CHATEAU ON THE HILL Beaumont, 432-4611 — Mr Entertainment
CHICAGO JOE'S 10425 Kingsway — Fri & Sat, 9 pm - 1:30 am w/ Mr Entertainment
CHIMMY'S 10425 Kingsway — Thu & Fri, 9 pm w/ Wild Kenny
CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB 3111-111 Ave. — Tue, 9 pm w/ Sana/Prosound Productions
CLAREVIEW PUB 10416-118 Ave., 474-5554 or 479-9999 — 1111 Tue, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Mr Entertainment
CLIFF CLAYVIN'S 10425 Kingsway — Fri & Sat, 10 am - 2 am
CLIFF'S PUB & PARTY 10425 Kingsway — Sat & Sun w/ Sana/Prosound Productions
CROWN & ANCHOR 527-527 Ave. — Thu w/ Shaun Donnell
DOC'S LOUNGE 15203 Stony Plain Rd., 486-1100 — Wed, Fri & Sat, 9:30 - 1:30 am
DOYLE'S PUB 2619-151 Ave., 473-1961 — Fri & Sat, 9:30 pm
ECCO PUB 9503-66 Ave. — Mon, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
FOX PUB 10125-109 St. 990-0680 — Tue, 9 pm Drink specials all night
FRANCO'S 14059 Victoria Tr., 478-4636 — Thu & Sat, Debra-Fae's Karaoke 9 pm
FRANKLIN'S PARK LOUNGE 2016 Sherwood Dr. Shird Park — Fri & Sat, 10 pm - 2 am
FUNKY BUDDHA 10241-82 Ave. — Sun, 9:30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
GAS PUMP 10166-114 St. 488-4841 — Tue & Wed, 9 pm - 2 am, w/ Gord's Live Jukebox
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE 10044-82 Ave. 433-5794 — Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun
HAWKEYE'S TOO 10044-102 St. 101-2324 — Fri 8 pm - 12 am, w/ Deb Thulin - Hot Karaoke

HILLVIEW PUB 371 Woodvale Rd. W., Millwoods, 462-0468 — Fri, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
HOLIDAY INN 4520-76 Ave. — Thu, 8:30 pm w/ Prosound Productions
HORSAL LOUNGE 137 Ave. & 58 St. — Mon & Sat, 10 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
INGLEWOOD PUB 12402-118 Ave. 451-1390 — Thu - Sat, 9:30 pm - 2 am w/ Mr Entertainment
JO'S POLAR PUB 6825-83 St., 413-1883 — Thu & Fri, 9 pm
JUCKS PUB 7450-82 Ave., 465-4046 — Sat, 9 pm
KELLY'S 11540 Jasper Ave. 451-8825 — Sun & Wed
KINGSKNIGHT PUB 222-34 Ave. 433-2599 — Thu, Smoking Jay 9 pm
KNIGHTS PUB 1860-145 Ave. — Tue Thu Sat 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
LOCKER ROOM 10209-100 Ave. 426-1111 — Fri & Sat, 10 pm - 2 am
KOJAK'S 10425 Kingsway — Thu & Sat, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
LE GLOBE 145-145 Ave. — Mon - Thu & Sat
LEGENDS PUB 6104-172 St. 481-7786 — Fri & Sat
LOCKER ROOM 10209-100 Ave. 426-1111 — Mon & Fri
MAZADAR 10275-104 Ave. — Fri, 9 pm - 1 am
CHRIS INFO 429-9999
METRO BILLIARDS 10425 Kingsway — Tue, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Sana/Prosound Productions
MICHAEL'S 11730 Jasper Ave. 432-4611 — Mon w/ Mr Entertainment
MILTON'S CAFE & BAR 10425 Kingsway — Fri, Sat & Sun
MOJO'S Fort Sask. Best Western motel 304 Ave. Fri, 9:30 pm w/ Sana/Prosound Productions
MONA USA PUB 7636-1180 Ave. 477-7777 — Every Wed, 9 pm - 1 am, house w/ Sana/Prosound Productions
MUGGN'Z PUB 4003-106 St. — Wed & Sat
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 — Thu, 9 pm w/ Devan Lane & Britany
NICKI DIAMONDS 8130 Gateway Blvd. — Mon 9 pm - 1 am w/ Gord from Stone Rock

North Country Fair

June 22 - 24 Advanced Tickets

PUT SOME SUNSHINE IN YER STOCKING THIS X-MAS

Weekend Pass \$80 (includes 2 tickets, 1 carter, 1 carter)

Blackbird Music

Earth's General Store

northcountryfair.ab.ca

Entertainment.
O'CONNORS IRISH PUB 9013-88 Ave., 469-8165
 — Thu, 9 pm - 1 am
ON THE ROCKS 11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767 —
 Mon, 9:30 pm, Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke w/
 Scott Parsons and Mr. Entertainment
ORLANDO'S 15165-121 St., 457-1195 — Every
 Wed, Thu & Sun, 9 pm-2 am
ORLANDO'S II 13509-127 St., 451-7799 — Tue &
 Wed 9 pm - 1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
ORLANDO'S III 6104-104 St. — Mon, 9 pm - 1
 am, w/ Off-Key Entertainment
OVERLAND LOUNGE 12960 St. Albert Trl. — Fri 9
 pm - 1 am Sat 9 pm - 1 am w/ Off-Key
PARKLAND PUB 504 Hermitage Rd. 475-2309 —
 Thu 9 pm hosted by Coffy, cash prizes
RATTLESNAKE SALOON 9261-34 Ave., 438-8878
 — Tue Sat, karaoke contest, 9 pm w/ Mr.
 Entertainment
ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL 11715-
 108 Ave., 447-4727 — 7 days a week, 9 pm
ROSE BOWL PIZZA 10111-117 St., 482-5152 —
 482-5389 — Wed & Sat
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10315-124 St., 482-1600
 — Wed, Sat, 9:30 pm hosted by Ron Burgess
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL 10475-80 Ave., 439-7211
 — Thu - Sat, 9:30 pm - 1:30 am
ROSEBANK BAR 63 Ave. & 99 St. — Thu - Sat, 9 pm
 w/ Off-Key
ROSEBANK LOUNGE 10604-101 St., 423-3499 —
 Mon, 9 pm, Trivia: Tue - Sat, 9 pm: Karaoke.
SAX'ON 51 ST 10525-51 Ave. — Fri & Sat
SANDS HOTEL 12340 Ft. Rd. — Fri, 9 pm w/ Mr.
 Entertainment
SCHOLARS 10415-113-87 Ave. — Sun &
 Tue, 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
SHERLOCK HODGES 13491 Strathcona, WEM — Sun,
 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
SILVER BULLET 4703-97 St., 437-6203 — Every
 Tue, karaoke contest
SILVER MARTINI 10668-156 St., 484-9753 — Thu
 & Sat, 9 pm w/ Prosound Productions
SMITTY'S Northgate Mall, South side entrance —
 Sat 9 pm, 428-7231
SMITTY'S WESTMINSTER Great Rd. & 111 Ave. —
 Thu, 9:30 pm - 1 am
SMO'N JOE'S ROADHOUSE 615 Hermitage Rd.,
 476-6122 — Wed w/ Rockin' Kenny
SPIKES RESTAURANT & LOUNGE 99 St. & 32 Ave.,
 430-3663 — Fri & Sat w/ TLC entertainment
SPORTSMAN'S LOUNGE 145 8107-50 St. — Thu,
 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
SPORTSWOMEN INLINE & ROLLER SKATING DISCO
 13710-104 St., 472-6336 — Tue, Fri & Sat 7
 pm - 12 am Sat & Sun, 1 pm - 5 pm
STRATHBURN PUB 9514-87 St., 465-5478 — Wed
 & Fri
THE DRUID 11406 Jasper Ave. — Wed, 9:30 pm
 w/ Mr. Entertainment
THE DAVID SOUTH 2945 Calgary Trail South —
 Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
THE FRAT 10320-102 Ave. 428-3733 — Every
 Tue, 9 pm w/ Peter from Mr. Entertainment
THE NEST Naitana Main Campus — Every Wed, 4:30
 pm - 8 pm
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9020 McKinney Ave., St.
 Albert, 458-0860 —
 Tue hosted by Jay & Mr. Entertainment
THORSHY BOULI Thorshy, AB — Sat 9:30 pm - 1
 am w/ Sonia/Prosound
THYME TO DINE 15505-118 Ave. — Fri & Sat, 9

pm - 1 am
TODAY'S PUB 5224-86 St. — Fri & Sat, 9 pm - 1
 am w/ Big Time Entertainment
WINSTON'S PUB 9016-132 Ave. — Wed, Fri &
 Sat, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
WOODY'S 11728 Jasper Ave. (Upstairs), 488-
 6636 — Sat & Mon w/ Tizzy, Sun & Tue w/
 Patrice
X-WRECKS 10143-50 St. — Wed 7:30 pm-11:30
 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound
YESTERDAY'S Broadway Rd., St. Albert, 459-0295
 — Thu 9 pm - 2 am w/ Off-Key
 Entertainment.

EVENTS

ALPACA KNIT SWEATER SALE & OPEN HOUSE —
 Dec 9, 10 am - 4 pm. Windsor Park Community
 Hall, 11840-87 Ave. Presented by the Minkha
 Women's Knitting Cooperative of Bolivia. All
 proceeds returned directly to the talented
 Bolivian artisans who create the variety of
 Alpaca wool items. Info:
 www.minkhawomen.com or 436-5732
FILL-A-BUS CHRISTMAS HAMPER CAMPAIGN —
 Dec 9, 9 am - 5 pm. Transit drivers will be at
 various St. Albert locations collecting donations
 for the St. Albert Knights' Christmas Hamper
 Campaign. Locations include the St. Albert
 Canadian Tire, Save on Foods stores, Sobies
 and Wal-Mart.
FINE ART OF SCHMOOZY: WHITE HOT & SHAKEN —
 Dec 9 doors open at 8 pm. Latitude 53
 10248-106 St., 423-5353. Latitude 53's annual
 fundraiser, an evening of elegant fashion,
 music, food & art with 53's contributing artists,
 Syndicate Apparel, Fluid Hair Salon, and DJ
 Miss Mattered. Food & libations supplied by
 Sophistic, Finlandia Vodka & Steam Whistle.
 The most white hot party this winter, proceeds
 supporting the dynamic programming at
 Latitude 53 Tickets \$12 (members), \$16 in
 advance of Ultra Violet Floral Studio (12334
 107 Ave.), Latitude 53, & Fluid Hair Salon
 (8120, 9916-81 Ave.), 112 at the door
LENDUM POTTERY GROUP CHRISTMAS SALE —
 Dec 9, 10 am - 2 pm. Lendum Community
 League Building, 11335 - 57 Ave. Pottery for all
 occasions and celebrations
PAPERCAST ART & PHOTOGRAPHY DEBUT —
 Dec 9, 4 pm - 11 pm. Orange Hall, 10335-84
 Ave. Julie Rice and Marice Rohr host their debut
 on reception, displaying Rice's photography
 and Rohr's mixed media works. Special guests
 Jared Robinson & Mark Templeton. Info: paper
 castart@gmail.com
SANTA'S KIDZ — Dec 15, Myer Horowitz Theatre
 SU Building, U of A campus. Third Street Bear
 presents an evening in benefit of the Stollery
 Children's Hospital Foundation, featuring over
 100 performers from Wish Kids, professional
 hip-hop crews, recording artists & dancers.
 Tickets \$17 adults, \$12 youth aged 12 and
 under, from TM. Info: www.santasidz.ca

EXHIBITS

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY 12310 Jasper Ave.,
 482-2854 — Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Info:
 www.agnesbugeragallery.com
ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL 453 King St., Spruce Grove
 — Unit Dec 23 Christmas show in the Little
 Church Gallery. Food bank donations welcome

Info: 962-0654
ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 10186-106 St. 488-
 6611 ext. 221 — Unit Dec 9 The Opera Coat
 Project, a visual spectacle showcasing the world
 of opera through a series of wearable coats,
 each inspired by a different opera.
ART BEAT GALLERY 26 St. Anne St., St. Albert,
 459-3679 — Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri, 10 am - 6
 pm, Thu, 10 am - 8 pm, Sat, 10 am - 5 pm.
 Info: www.artbeat.co
ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 St. Winston Churchill
 Square, 422-6223 — Unit Feb 19: Far &
 Wide: Alberta landscapes, by David Alexander
 & John Hartman; ISUMA: To Have an Idea, a
 survey exhibition of films produced by Ipsokit
 Inuit Productions, Canada's first independent
 Inuit production company; Ashoona: Third
 Wave, new drawings by Shervin Ashoona;
 Sossie Kennedy & Annie Potatookook, all
 descendants of the famed Cape Dorset artist
 Pishokook Ashoona; Three Travellers, works of
 Edmonton artists Scott Barry, Louis O'Colley
 & Lao Wang. In the Children's Gallery: Alphabet
 Soup, an interactive space for children to
 explore different methods of drawing, featuring
 works by Larne Bennett. Info: www.artgalleryof-
 alberta.com
ART MODE GALLERY 12220 Jasper Ave. — Open
 Tue - Sun, Info: www.artmode.com
ARTS HUB STUDIO 436 St. Anne St., St. Albert,
 439-3679 — Unit Dec 28, Tangled Reflections,
 paintings and drawings by artists of the
 Coloured Web School of Art, and new works by
 Amihab residents. Open Every Thu, 5 pm - 8
 pm. Info: www.artshub.com
ARTS & SCIENCE BY MARCE & MARCE —
 Featuring dimensional paintings by Brenda
 Marce, by appointment 435-8276
BANYAN TREE GALLERY 10336-107 St., 425-
 2727 — Featuring contemporary South Asian
 artists, furniture, jewelry and more. Info:
 info@banyanreegallery.ca
BEARCLAW GALLERY 10403-124 St. — Info 482-
 1204
BOHEMIA CYBER CAFE 11012 Jasper Ave. — Info
 www.bohemiacybercafe.com/about.html
BRINSMEAD ZOLA KENNEDY ARCHITECTURE
 10434-122 St. — Hours: Mon - Fri 8 am - 5
 pm
CATALYST THEATRE 8529-103 St. — Dec 7 & 8,
 7 pm - 10 pm, Dec 9, 10 am - 4 pm, MUA
 Edmonton-Strathcona Arts Centre is once again
 proud to host "Art from the Underground", a unique
 show & sale, celebrating the work and pas-
 sion of low-income artists. Reception Dec 7, 7
 pm, featuring live music, guest speakers & per-
 formers. Info: www.rapagan.com or 414-0702
CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 9103-95
 Ave. — Unit Dec 22 Normand Fontaine's
 mixed media, Marco Lopez's mixed media
 & photography, Claude Gagnier's acrylics &
 glass etchings, and Gisèle Gagnier's paintings
 on stone. Info: 461-3427
CHACHAKS 8118-100 St., 432-9444 — Info:
 chachaks@telusnet.net
CHRISTIE BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY 9621-82
 Ave. — View the web site at
 www.redgallery.ca. Hours: Mon - Fri, 11 am - 5
 pm, Sat by appointment, 439-8210
CLAYWORKS STUDIO 10125-81 Ave. 433-
 8866 — Info: 433-8866 after 1 pm
COLLECTIVE CONTEMPORARY ART 6507-112 Ave.,
 491-0002 — Unit Dec 23, holiday shopping
 hours Mon-Fri 12 noon - 5:30 pm, open Thu
 8 am - 10 pm, Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12
 noon - 4 pm, Info: www.collective.ca
CRAFTMAN'S COVE Westmount Shopping Centre,
 Info: 962-0654

454-2656 — Toe Painting and Victorian Music
 Boxes by Bever Rulonish
DESTINA GALLERY 10727-124 St., 488-8720 —
 Hours: Wed - Sat, 11 am - 5 pm
DISCOVERY GALLERY 10186-106 St., main floor
 — Hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5:00 pm
DOUGLAS IDEAL GALLERY 10332-124 St. — Unit
 Dec 23 Christmas show 2006, with new works
 by gallery artists, featuring Nathan Birch. Hours:
 Tue-Fri, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, Sat, 10 am - 4:45
EKIK'S GALLERY #414 Southgate Centre — Info:
 www.webgalleries.com
EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY 2nd Fl. U of A
 Extension Centre, 8303-112 St. — Dec 7 - Jan
 10 Those Among Us, realist & encaustic paint-
 ings by Izabella Orzeski-Konikowski & Bogdan
 Koral-Konikowski. Dec 7, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm,
 opening reception. Hours: Mon-Thru 8:30 am-8
 pm, Fri 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-12 noon.
 Info: extension.ualberta.ca
FAB GALLERY 1-1 Fine Arts Building, U of A
 Campus — Unit Dec 23 Science+Magic, final
 visual presentation by Lisa Buhman, MFA
 Printmaking. Opening reception Dec 7, 7 pm.
 Also showing Painting in Italy: A Visual Diary,
 exhibited studies made from museum artifacts
 and on location at Pompeii, Heracleum,
 Vesuvius, Naples, and Capri, presented
 unfurled to facilitate a studio critique.
 Acknowledging photographs and presentations
 by students. Hours: Tues - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm;
 Sat, 2 - 5 pm
FORT DOOR 10308-81 Ave., 432-7535 — Hours:
 Mon - Wed, 10 am - 6 pm; Thu & Fri, 10 am -
 9 pm; Sat, 10 am - 6 pm; Sun, 12 - 5 pm
FRANCE OF MIND 6150-90 Ave. — Hours: 10-6,
 closed Sun
FRINGE GALLERY 10516 Whyte Ave., 432-0240 —
 Throughout Dec Digital images by Ansgard
 Thompson
FRONT GALLERY 12312 Jasper Ave., 488-2952 —
 Hours: Tues - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm
GALLERIA OF CRAFTERS & ARTISANS 1082
 Capilano Mall — Local art in various media.
 Open 7 days a week
GALLERY AT MILLNER Stanley Millner Library, 7 St.
 Winston Churchill Square — Hours: Mon - Fri, 9
 am - 9 pm, Sat 9 am - 6 pm, Sun, 1 pm - 5
 pm
GLASS HAPPENINGS 17324-106A Ave. — Info:
 426-8388
HARCOURT GALLERY 3rd floor, 10215-
 112 St., 426-4180 — Unit Dec 23 Cowboys &
 Indians (and Meats), paintings by David
 Gormeau. Info: www.harcourthouse.com
HUMAN ECOLOGY GALLERY U of A, 89 Ave. &
 116 St. — Hours: Mon - Fri, 7 am - 9 pm, Sat,
 8 am - 4 pm, Sun, 12 pm - 4 pm
JEFF ALLEN GALLERY Strathcona Centre, Centre,
 10831 University Ave. 433-5807 — Unit Jan 4
 Christmas Show and Sale, featuring several
 of the artists exhibited at the Jeff Allen Gallery
 throughout 2006.
JOHNSON GALLERY 7711-85 St. Edmonton Oil
 Painters, artists working in studio. Info: susanbo-
 nica.com
KAMENKA GALLERY & FRAMES 5718-104 St. 944-
 9497 — Photography by Wei Wang, Chinese
 calligraphy on rice paper of many colours by
 Willie Wang, prints from Celebrating Women
 by Larissa Semblant Cheladon, Northern Light
 & Floral water-colour by Willie Wang. Hours:
 Mon - Fri, 10 am - 6 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm,
 Sat 10 am - 5 pm
LANDO GALLERY 11130-105 Ave., 990-1161 —
 Unit Dec 22 Three separate solo shows: Frozen
 in Time, photography by Michael Levin;

Horizons, photography by Eric Freeman & The
 Tree of Life, paintings by Tisha Berman & The
 Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5:30 pm & Sun 10 am - 5:30
 4:30 pm, Sun by appointment, visit www.lan-
 dogallery.com for info.
LATITUDE 53 10248-106 St., 423-5353 — Info:
 www.latitude53.org
LITTLE CHURCH GALLERY 455 King St. —
 Grove - Info: 962-0664
LOFT GALLERY 41 Oldwell Arts Centre, 444
 Broadwood Blvd., Sherwood Pl. 488-4444
 Unit Jan 14 Alberta / Winter 2007
 Artist-run gallery through the arts
 offering frequent rotation of artists
 offering mixed art classes including
 oil, acrylic & photography tech-
 niques. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm, Sat,
 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 12 pm - 5 pm
MCULLEN GALLERY 8440-112 St. — Info:
 426-8388
 Exhibition of photographic and ceramic work
 by the Monochrome Guild and St. Albert
 Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 8 pm, Sat & Sun,
 8 pm. Admission: Free
MINISTIK POTTERY & SCULPTURE STUDIO
 51049, 88 214, Sherwood Park, 488-4444
 Dec 9 & 10, 10 am - 6 pm, Dec 10, 10 am - 6 pm
 Info: www.ministikpottery.com
MODERN EYES GALLERY & GIFT — Info:
 426-8388
 same building as Ric's Grill & Restaurant
 9102 — Carrying works of artists
 Flor, Ian Sheldon, Georgia Lee,
 Obeng, sculptures by Roy, Jeanne,
 Corbett, and Fred Obeng. Hours:
 Antique hours: Thurs 10 am - 5 pm, Fri 10 am -
 5 pm, Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12 pm - 5 pm
 with a Kiss 10% off Open house 10 am - 5 pm
 up to 40% off. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm,
 Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12 pm - 5 pm
MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC ART GALLERY —
 St. Mary Place — Unit Jan 14 The
 Pot, ceramics exhibition by Larone Berrys
 by Larone Berrys. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am -
 5 pm, Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 12 pm - 5 pm
MUSE HERITAGE MUSEUM 5 St. Anne St.,
 426-8388
 459-1528 — Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm;
 Sat, 10 am - 5 pm. Admission: Free
 donation of \$2.
MUTART CONSERVATORY 9626-96A St. —
 426-8388
NAKED BYTES CAFE 10354 Jasper Ave. —
 426-8388
NINA HAGGERY CENTRE 9702-111 Ave.,
 7611 — Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm;
 Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Info: www.na-
 ggeryart.ca
ORTONA GALLERY 9722-102 St., 439-4944
 Hours: Sat & Sun, 12 - 5 pm
PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 10183-95 Ave.,
 Unit Dec 14 Group show, featuring new
 works by Gregory Hardy, Hoon, Liane
 am - 5:30 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm
PICTURE THIS 959 Ride Rd., Sherwood Pl.
 Wye Road. Info: 467-3038
PROFFES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 Patton St.
 Albert, 460-4310 — Unit Dec 30 Presence
 of art & style
PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA 8555-104
 St., 427-1750 — Unit Jan 25 A Jewish
 Harvest, sculpting 100 people, places and
 organizations that have defined Jewish life in
 Alberta since 1889. Hours: Tues - Sat,
 4:30 pm, Wed 9 am - 9 pm
RED DEER ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL GALLERY —
 Ross St., Red Deer 403-301-4641 — Unit
RED STRAP MARKET 10305-97 St., 497-21
 Unit Dec 31 Rammy Hart presents the
 Blackboard Jungle, a show & sale of new
 featuring some of the most unusual & mem-
 orable of the animal kingdom. Hours: Tue-
 11 am - 5 pm
ROWLES & COMPANY 10130-102-9, 426-
 8388
 — Featuring over 100 Western Canadian
 oil, acrylic, water-colour painting, water-
 blown glass, metal, mosaic, onyx, ceramic
 sculptures. Westin: artists by Kathryn
 Sherman, Scotia Place water colour &
 by Frances Ally-arcott, Sun Life Place
 George Schwindt & acrylics by R. H. H.
 Hours: Weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm, Sat 10
 pm. Info: www.rowles.ca
ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM 128-65-102 Ave.
 9102
RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY U of A Centre
 Hours: Mon - Fri, 12 pm - 4:30 pm
SADDLERY GALLERY 10137-104 St., 426-8388
 Hours: Tue - Sat, 10 am - 7 pm
SCOTT GALLERY 10411-124 St. — Info:
 Scott Gallery's "Christmas Treasures" fea-
 new paintings by Madeline Horik, Kenna
 Markkas, Harold Fife, sculpture by David
 Mitchell, pottery by Carol & Richard Smith
 and intimate still-life images by new

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TIX ON THE SQUARE

A Child's Christmas in Wales
 Watlerdale Playhouse
 Unit Dec 16

The Summer of My Amazing Luck
 Theatre Network
 Dec 7-17

Winnipeg
 Kokopeli Choir Association
 Dec 9

A Christmas Wish
 Royal Canadian Artillery Band
 Dec 10

Christmas Cheer
 Mill Creek Colliery band
 Dec 10

A Christmas Carol Reading
 CBC / Radio Canada
 Dec 11

Calderdale Christmas
 The Lynne Singers Society
 Dec 12

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SNOW WHITE and the Seven Gnomes of Christmas,

Nov. 17 at the Shodor Theatre

Nov. 19, 19th St. St. Albert. Every 2nd Nov. 10 or 11 a.m. on class, includes materials. Info on www.see.org. Call Glenda at 460-4310 or glenda@see.org.

WORKSHOPS — FAVA offers a range of writing workshops this fall, including documentary storytelling, documentary post-production, and film making basics. Details at www.fava.ca.

WINTER BEGINNERS — Edmonton Seniors' Centre, 1111 Jasper Ave. Closes Wed morning 9 a.m. in January. Info: 482-8625.

ANCESTRY LESSONS — On The Rocks, 11740 Jasper Ave. "Solo in the City" every Thu. Latin dance lesson at 9 p.m. Info: www.solo-dance.com.

INNOVATIVE LITERACY ASSOCIATION — 1070-1016-105 Ave. The Learning Centre is looking for people to help adults develop their literacy & math skills. Volunteer & help others see positive changes for themselves and their communities. Info: Mary at 429-0675.

EDMONTON — 8818-104 St., 435-0202. Offer classes and workshops on the recovery process, exploring emotional, relational & spiritual dynamics. Registration is on a sliding scale based on participant's income. Full details www.mentalcentre.com.

WIMMERS WORKSHOPS — Nina Hogarty, Gallery for the Arts, 9702-111 Ave. Dec 13. Working Electronic Newsletters, design, publishing & maintain mailing lists for an e-newsletter. \$150 per workshop. Info: www.wimmers.ca.

WOMEN'S GROUP — Build self-esteem and learn about women's resources in community. For more information contact Heidi Helene of the City of Edmonton, 496-7932.

WINTER PREP WORKSHOP — Dec 9, 10:30 a.m. — Dec 12, 7:30 p.m. Prof. R. Katz, 1910-1111 St. Albert. For high school students planning to enroll in a post-secondary study art program after graduation. WFA Arts School will guide participants through a portfolio submission. Info: 460-4310, \$25 per person.

WINTER CLASS — Nov. 21, 5:45 p.m. Wed 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Drop in \$12/class. Classes held in Sherwood Park. Info: 416-4244, www.balanced-wellness.ca.

WINTER SUNDAYS — John Jozan Nature Centre, Fox Dr. & Whitemud Dr. — Every Sun.

...we suppose it's not actually new stuff, but rather 'feel good' about doing something nice' stuff.

...with rock'n' good cheer and charitable tidings this Holiday Season, SEE Magazine reverts our regular Free Stuff contest. Instead of the usual trivia madness, SEE will be accepting donations for the Food Bank as part of our weekly movie pass giveaway. The first ten people to see the SEE office on Friday at 1 p.m. — and not one minute before! — will receive a donation for the Food Bank will receive a movie pass to see The Queen at the Garneau Theatre, or The US Navy John Lennon, Babe, Little Miss Sunshine or Manufactured Landscapes at the Princess Theatre.

...will be also accepting Food Bank donations throughout the holiday season. If you're into the New Year, should any feel so inclined to give without strings attached.

...happy whatever-Holiday-Suits-You from the gang at SEE Mag! Please do consider others less fortunate, and have a helluva good festive season.

11 am — 4 pm. Join a naturalist and explore new theme. Each weekend features hands-on activities and projects for the whole family. Admission: \$1.75 adults, \$1.50 youth/seniors, \$1.25 children. Info: 496-8787 or www.edmonton.ca/johnjanz.

ARMY CADET RECRUITMENT Progressive Academy, 13212-106 Ave. — Every Wed, 6:30 — 9 p.m. Free sports, activities, camping, rifle, water climbing and orienteering. For more information call Jason 473-4500.

ART-VENTURES Probes Public Art Gallery, 19 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-4310 — Every third Sat., 1 — 4 p.m. Drop in to the gallery and discover how much fun art can be. Children, ages 5-12. Suggested donation per child is \$2. Parents must stay with their children.

CAPOEIRA KIDS CLASSES 1050 Jasper Ave., 709-3500 — Every Tue & Thu, 4:30 — 5:30 p.m., Sat., 1 — 2 p.m. Capoeira is a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & percussion. Info: www.capeiraedmonton.ca.

FREE INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM — Every Sat., Nov-Jan Sacred Heart School Gymnasium, 95 St. & 108 Ave. Introduction to basic soccer skills by renowned FIFA coach Tony Wallace. Info: 420-0760.

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES — Dec 9, 16 & 23, 1 pm — 4 pm. The Marketplace at Collingwood, 69 Ave. & 178 St. All riders will receive a free activity book and hot chocolate.

KIDS KARATE Grandin School, 9884-110 St. — Every Tue & Thu, 6:30 — 8:30 p.m. Classes for kids aged 10 & up. Info: 975-6910 or 460-2931.

YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE Castle Downs YMCA, 11510-153 Ave., 476-9622 — Every Fri, 7 — 10 p.m. Basketball, air hockey, football, swimming & open gym. Call Trent, 476-9622 for info.

QUEER

AGAPE Education, U of A Campus — Focus group on sex and gender differences in education & culture. Pre-service & practicing teachers, community members welcome. Email: andrea.groves@ualberta.ca for Agape events schedule. Info: 492-0772.

INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus — A campus-based organization for LGBTQ+ adults, graduates, academic & staff. Staffing allies are also welcome. Monthly meetings. Contact kwell@ualberta.ca or mwonham@ualberta.ca.

PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 Ave., 488-3234 — GLBT & Supporters Community & Resource Centre.

FREE STUFF

...CALL TO WIN

...with rock'n' good cheer and charitable tidings this Holiday Season, SEE Magazine reverts our regular Free Stuff contest. Instead of the usual trivia madness, SEE will be accepting donations for the Food Bank as part of our weekly movie pass giveaway. The first ten people to see the SEE office on Friday at 1 p.m. — and not one minute before! — will receive a donation for the Food Bank will receive a movie pass to see The Queen at the Garneau Theatre, or The US Navy John Lennon, Babe, Little Miss Sunshine or Manufactured Landscapes at the Princess Theatre.

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...happy whatever-Holiday-Suits-You from the gang at SEE Mag! Please do consider others less fortunate, and have a helluva good festive season.

Join a group or take part in special programming. Hours: Mon-Thurs 1 pm — 10 pm, Fri 3 pm — 10 pm. Info: www.pridecentreedmonton.org.

THURSDAY

BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP — Second Thu each month 7:30 pm. A social group for bisexual and bi-sexual women. More info groups yahoo.com/group/bwedenon.

COCAINE ANONYMOUS MEETING — Every Thu 7 pm, Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.) CA Hotline 425-2715.

FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL Amikwsky Academy, 101 Airport Rd. — Every Thu, 8 pm — 10 pm. GLBT players, intermediate level. Coaching & social provided. Info: 414-9942 or volleyball@amikwsky.com.

GAYWIRE CSK 88.5 — A radio show for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and two-spirit people. Hosted by David and Lisa. Info: 468-3234.

HIV POSITIVE GLBT SUPPORT GROUP — Every Tue & Thu, 7 pm — 9 pm. Free. Info: 468-3234.

LBGT SENIORS DROP-IN — Every Thu, 2 pm — 4 pm, Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.) Info: 468-3234.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB The Jazz, 1345-114 St. — Second Thu of each month. Info: 468-3234.

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices Every Tue & Thu. Socializing after practice. Info: www.geocities.com/makingwaves.edm.

OPEN DOOR CLUB — Every Wed, 8 pm — 10 pm. GLBT players of all levels welcome. Info: 468-3234.

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave. — Last Fri, every month, 7 pm. TTIQ Alliance, dinner & social evening for trans identified & questioning people, family & friends. Info: 718-1412 or info@ttiq.ca.

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7:15 pm. A church for all people. Info: 429-2372.

GROUP MOVIE NIGHT — Phone to find out what movie, when to meet and where. Join us for cool free afterwards, too. Cost: Free for 2 members plus theatre costs. Info: 454-0313.

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices Every Tue & Thu. Socializing after practice. Info: www.geocities.com/makingwaves.edm.

OUTREACH Heritage Room, Athabasca Hall, U of A Campus — 5 pm: U of A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight but friendly students, staff and faculty. Open to the community, not just U of A. Info: www.outreach.ualberta.ca or outreach@ualberta.ca.

PELAGI — 1st Dec 9540-111 Ave. — 8 pm. Meeting first Tues every month 7 pm for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Info: Ruby at 436-1978 or edmonton@paganradio.ca.

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP Garneau United Church meeting room, 11148-84 Ave. — Second Thu, 7:30 pm. TTIQ, an open support group for trans-identified & questioning people. Info: 718-1412 or info@ttiq.ca.

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office

THEATRE

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES — Until Dec 16. Waverdale Theatre, 10322-83 Ave. An enchanting musical adaptation of Dylan Thomas' cherished love. Tickets \$14-\$16 adult, \$12-\$14 student/senior. Available at TIX or the Waverdale box office.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL — Until Dec 23. Madob Theatre, Citadel Complex. Adapted by Tim Wood. The Citadel's Christmas tradition continues with this astounding retelling of Dickens' classic. A Christmas Carol. Director: Bob Bolter. Starring: Tom Wood. Tickets: \$65-\$90, avail. at the Citadel Box Office.

CHIMPVOP Varsova Theatre, 10329-83 Ave. 448-0695 — Every Sat 11 am (except last Sat of the month) Chimpvop comedy improv.

CRIMES OF THE HEART — Until Dec 9. Studio Theatre, Timms Centre, U of A campus. By Bell He. Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the story of a woman in the throes of a mid-life crisis. Directed by Kim. Tickets \$8-\$20, available at TIX or the Centre box office.

DE HAST Varsova Theatre, 10329-83 Ave. — Every Sat 11 am (except last Sat of the month) Chimpvop comedy improv.

OFFENSIVE FOULS — Until Dec 9, 8 pm. A Christmas Theatre production. An engaging, sometimes funny and thought-provoking exploration of interpersonal dating, racism, violence and more. Seen through the eyes of a high school couple. Tickets \$16, \$12 student/senior, avail. at TIX.

FOR SALE

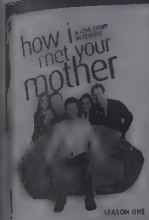
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Hagar the homosexual

Finding a nice, hairy Viking is tough these days

Dear Josey,

I am a gay man who has a thing for big, long-haired barbarian males. I've surfed bear and muscle sites, haven't found exactly what I'm looking for. I know this sounds pretty "niche" as a turn-on, and maybe there aren't web sites or organizations that cater specifically to it. So if you know of any good-looking Viking-types, please send them my way.

More Man

MY MESSY BEDROOM

JOSEY VOGELS

Dear Mane,

Niche? Kikigami—the art of wrapping the penis in a paper costume—now that's niche, but being into big, long-haired barbarian gay men, hell that's practically mainstream these days. Perhaps in reaction to the tyranny of the hairless, cut, model-good-looks aesthetic of gay male culture of the last decade, *The Bear Handbook* describes this ever-growing phenomenon as a quasi-intellectualized, entirely merchandized subculture of "those who are husky, hairy, and homosexual."

As for finding what you're looking for, I'm afraid I'm fresh out of Viking-types to send your way, but while you don't specify exactly what you're looking for, I find it hard to believe you can't find something to tickle your hairy, husky fancy among the umpteen sites like *Furry Fellas*, *Nude Gay Bears*, *Abundantly Hairy Bears*, *Country Bears Go City*, or *Bad Ass Gay Bear Fuckers*. Keep looking my friend.

Dear Josey,

I really enjoy masturbating on women's clothes. Is there a name for this fetish? I can't find anything on the Internet. Every time I look up "fetish," it talks about rubber clothes, or bondage, but nothing comes close to my particular fetish. I prefer masturbating on regular clothes—nice skirts or dresses in velvet or tweed. Any insight would be appreciated.

Material Boy

Dear Material,

While it's true that tweed suits aren't generally the most common object of masturbatory affection for men, wanting to masturbate on women's clothes is right up there with "husky, hairy, homosexual men" on the list of common fetishes. Generally, the desire to come on women's clothing is linked to the smell and/or texture of the garment often combined with the fantasy of the woman wearing it, making silk or satin panties more popular than, say, a tweed jacket. Fabrics

that create a second skin, like leather and PVC are also common fetish materials and Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (the guy who gave us the term Masochism) documented his fur fetish in his semi-autobiographical novel *Venus in Furs*. But it doesn't really matter why or what type of clothing turns you on. Heck, there are even sock fetishists out there. What gets a person off is very individual. There may not be a name for it and you may not find any niceskirtsandvelvetdresses.com websites, but just be thankful your turn-on isn't coming on haute couture. Regular women's clothes are much easier and cheaper to acquire.

Dear Josey,

I've never been able to swallow and my

I can see how vomiting all over your husband would really take the excitement out of the moment.

husband wants this more than anything. I'm ok at the beginning but when I start to think about it, I start to gag. I can't go very deep (I gag brushing my teeth) and I've vomited on him a few times while trying. He seems to take it in stride but I feel like a failure. What can I do?

Hard Act To Swallow

Dear Hard,

I can see how vomiting all over your husband would really take the excitement out of the moment. It's very sweet of you to be so determined to do this for your guy, but while it certainly won't land you a future as a porn starlet, not being able to deep-throat or swallow your husband's come hardly makes you a failure. That said, there are some things you can try. Some people use Chloraseptic throat spray or children's teething gel to numb the back of their throat and allow for easier deep throating and swallowing. But it sounds like you also need to get over your psychological fear of gagging given just thinking about it makes you gag.

Part physical, part psychological, *The Ultimate Guide to Fellatio* by Violet Blue says the gag reflex can, for the most part, be overcome. It still may happen but you can find ways to get past it. When you feel the gag reflex coming on, you suggest you stop, take a few deep breaths, swallow (not his jizz, just swallow) until the feeling subsides. Use your hand along with your mouth so you control how deep you go. Use lube so when your mouth needs a break, you continue stroking with your hand to keep the sensation going. You can find more tips—like practicing with a dildo or come-like foodstuffs—at dentspitswallow.com.

But remember, a good blowjob isn't just about going deep and swallowing.

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Cuckolding etiquette

sometimes, cheaters can prosper

MY FRIEND AND I ARE CURRENTLY DOING a long-distance thing, as I'm finishing up high school. About two months ago, during some dirty phone talk, he said he'd be masturbating while thinking about me and another man while he watches.

This was unexpected. In the past, I've never been on boyfriends. He knows that I thought he also understood that I wasn't to be with him and that I am not interested in additional male partners. He brought this scenario up whenever we're on the phone sex or we're together and aroused. When he's not hard, he says he's thinking of my being with another guy, but it's just wrenching and awful, but when he's aroused, he tells me that he really wants me to do this.

I'm confused. Previously, partners have brought up unexpected stuff in bed and I've dealt with it (bondage, strap-ons, etc.), but I've always been able to talk about it. Now, what it was about, why it was a fetish, etc. My current man gets upset when I try to talk about it outside of sex. He's familiar with this sort of drastic, after-the-fact denial?

Unsure About The Cuckold Thing

Yeah, UATCI, I'm familiar with the drastic, after-the-fact denial. When I came out—back before I knew better—I was a handful of "straight" guys. And let me tell you, UATCI, the shit that comes out of closets of closet cases just before and all day sex will turn your hair white and/or your dick hard. No one begs to be quite as sincerely, graphically, or descriptively as some frat boy who hasn't reconciled himself to being gay quite yet.

At all, the moment a closet case gets out, he changes dramatically. Not only does he stop begging to be fucked, he will deny he wanted to be fucked in the first place. The truly messed up ones would even tell you they had been lucked at all, never mind the evidence all over their abs. And they attempt to address their absurd denial—"What do you mean you've never been lucked? My cock is still in your ass..."—and waste a time.

Like those "straight" frat boys I fucked at the University of Illinois, your friend wants it. He wants you to fuck and with another guy, preferably in front of him. But he doesn't wanna want it and he'll make it would go away. And it does go away, but like magic, immediately after he's lucked. Unfortunately, it's like roaring back as he's horny again.

Where did his cuckold fetish come from? Many fetishes, his cuckold thing is most likely a subconscious, erotic response to a socially charged fear. While most of us don't live with and occasionally conquer fears without eroticizing them, a number respond to sexual fears or traumas by eroticizing them into our erotic imagination. Think of women—hip, together, powerful, feminist women—who act out rape scenes; think of the homos—hip, together, badass—who dress up like soldiers, cops, and other stereotypically violent masculine types.

Women fear rape, yet some develop a fetish for it. Gay men fear violent homosexuals, yet some dress up like violent homosexuals. And what do many straight men do when they're cheated on, of course, and deal

SAVAGE LOVE

DAN SAVAGE

ing with that particular brand of sexual humiliation. Your boyfriend has, consciously or subconsciously, eroticized his fears around your cheating on him—and that's not an entirely irrational fear, UATCI, considering your past.

Cuckolding may seem like some sort of brand-new fetish, but it's not. We're hearing more about it now because of the Internet. But while straight women have long been free to share and explore their rape fantasies with their male partners, and gay men can share their homophobia fantasies with each other, married straight men into cuckolding have a harder time of it. A rape fantasy, however charged, or a homophobia fantasy, however comical, is easy to realize. ("Hold me down," "Wear this uniform.") A cuckold fantasy, on the other hand, is infinitely more complicated. Not only does the wannabe cuckold have to talk his partner into it, he also has to find a willing third. It wasn't until sites like www.cuckoldplace.com and www.adultcommunitiesonline.com/ourhotwifes came along that cuckold fetishists—or "cucks," as some insist on calling themselves—were able to create a community of sorts, put a name to their desires, and swap tips on broaching the subject with their wives and girlfriends.

I'M AMONG THE "GROWING LEGIONS" OF cuckold fetishists. My wife is a Hot Little Slut, and she's happy to accommodate my fantasy. Recently, while at an out-of-town seminar, my HLS hooked up with a guy and gave him a blowjob. She did a repeat when he was in our area on business. The guy, also married, assumes that my HLS is having sex without my knowledge. We don't believe we have an ethical obligation to notify "one-nighters" that HLS will be sharing the dirty details with her "wronged" husband later. However, the issue seems less clear with regulars. If there is an obligation to inform, when does it begin?

Husband Into Slut

I don't believe HLS has a moral obligation to share the dirty details with "one-nighters" she meets at seminars, truck stops, celebrity weddings, etc.

Regulars, however, have a right to know what's up—but only if they inquire. As I see it, HLS, your wife's regulars believe they're putting something over on you. That you're

actually putting one over on them, well, that's a classic double-cross. You're cheating the cheater, robbing the robber, spying on the spy. But if, as many cuckold fetishists agree, it's hotter when the other guy rubs your nose in his enjoyment of your wife, then you should inform him—because this is, or should be, about you and your wife, HIS, your pleasure, and your sex lives.

SO THERE ARE "LEGIONS OF MEN," TO USE your words, who are into cuckolding. Fan-

tastic. So is my husband. The problem is that I find the idea of humiliating my husband like this revolting. I don't want to have sex with other men and I cry when he talks about his fantasies. It's only been in the last year that things have progressed to this level of incompatability. Is there any chance he'll move on to something other than someone else's come in my pussy?

I had no idea I'd be at this point in life with a problem like this.

Wife With Worries

Cuckolding isn't oral, it isn't light bondage, it isn't the husband wanting to wear your panties. Like scat or hardcore sadism, cuckolding is "a fetish too far," meaning it's not a fetish your husband has a

right to expect that you'll indulge. As the stakes are high, emotionally and physically, the wife has to wanna or it's off the table.

So, WWW, you have a right to say, "You have to drop this. It's terribly upsetting to me. You can fantasize about it whenever you like, but this isn't something I'm ever going to be able to do for you." Then, for the sake of your marriage, he has to promise not to bring it up. You, for your part, have to promise not to obsess about what might be going through his mind when you two do have sex.

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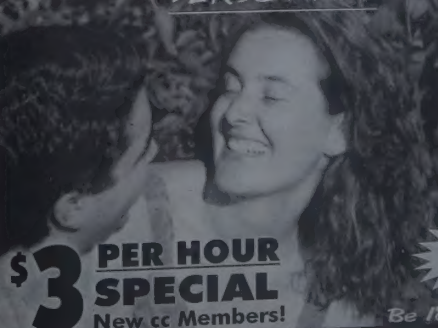
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Willie, our resident teen photographer, friend and advisor makes her gift selections here...

1) Gift Bag For Men (Online)

For my dad because he always goes to the YMCA to play handball. He'd love everything in there.

2) Infant Hoodie and Pant Set (Online)

For the kids on my street; there are so many and they are the cutest tiny people ever.

3) Fleece Dog Vest

For my uncle who is obsessed with his dog.

4) Velour Track Jacket

I can totally see my grandma wearing this when she walks to Sunday brunch at the beach club.

5) Tri-Blend Deep V-Neck

My sister is on a constant quest for the softest shirt ever, the Tri-Blend is comfortable and the Deep-V is really cute.

6) Fleece Zip-Up Hoodie

This jacket is warm and well-made enough to withstand a soccer-playing 4th grade cousin's energy level.

7) Mini Shift Dress

This is the universal gift for my friends. It's simple, easy to layer and flattering.

8) Thermal Henley and Striped Scarf

My cousin goes to college in Philadelphia... It gets cold there.

9) Flex Fleece Hoodie

For any guy friends... They like soft sweatsuits.

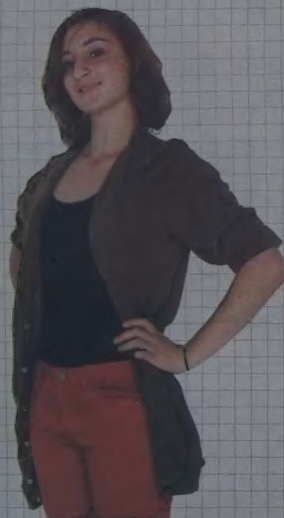
10) Flex Fleece Boyfriend Sweatpants

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